Job 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.

Analysis

Zophar declares the wicked's children will beg: 'His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.' The next generation suffers for the father's wickedness—children begging from those their father oppressed. This principle (children bearing consequences of parents' sins) appears in Scripture but isn't absolute (Ezekiel 18). Zophar wrongly applies this to Job, whose children died (not impoverished), suggesting their deaths indicated Job's wickedness.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern understanding recognized intergenerational consequences of sin (Exodus 20:5-6). However, prophets also emphasized individual responsibility (Ezekiel 18). Zophar applies corporate consequences mechanically without wisdom about individual situations.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we understand intergenerational sin consequences without assuming all children's suffering indicates parents' wickedness?
2. What does Ezekiel 18's emphasis on individual responsibility add to understanding of generational patterns?
3. How does the Gospel break cycles of intergenerational sin and suffering?

Interlinear Text

בָּ נָיו	יְרַצּ וּ	דַּל ים	וְ יָדָ יו	תָּשֵׁ בְנָה	אוֹנְוֹ:
His children	**shall seek to please**	**the poor**	**and his hands**	**shall restore**	**their goods**
H1121	H7521	H1800	H3027	H7725	H202

Additional Cross-References

Job 20:18 (Parallel theme): That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.

Luke 19:8 (Good): And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.