

Job 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.

Analysis

Prosperity brings judgment: 'In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.' At the peak of prosperity, trouble strikes—the Hebrew 'metsuqah' (straits/distress) suggests being trapped. 'Every hand' attacking suggests comprehensive assault. This describes sudden reversal, which did happen to Job—but not because of wickedness. Satan's attack, not divine judgment for sin, caused Job's reversal.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern texts recognized that prosperity could precede downfall (Daniel's interpretation of Belshazzar's feast). However, assuming all sudden reversals indicate prior wickedness oversimplifies divine providence. Job's story explicitly shows righteous suffering.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do we interpret sudden reversals without assuming they always indicate prior sin?
2. What does Job's story teach about Satan's role in attacking the righteous?
3. How does prosperity sometimes set us up for trials that test whether we love God or His gifts?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִלְאַת אֹתָהּ שְׁפָלָה יְצָרָה כָּלְלָה יְדָה

In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits every hand

H4390

H5607

H3334

H0

H3605

H3027

עַמְּלֵה תִּבְאַפְּנָה

of the wicked shall come

H6001

H935

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