

Job 20:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.

Analysis

It is drawn, and cometh out of the body (שָׁלַף וַיֵּצֵא מִגִּוָּה, shalaph vayyetse miggevah)—the arrow is pulled out from the torso, the verb shalaph meaning to draw out or extract. **The glittering sword cometh out of his gall** (וַיֵּצֵא מִמֶּרֶתוֹ יָרֵב, uvaraḳ mimerortho yetse)—baraḳ means lightning or glittering blade; meroroth (gall/bile) represents the vital organs. The withdrawal of the weapon causes maximum agony.

Terrors are upon him (עָלָיו אַיִמִּים, alav emim)—emim denotes overwhelming dread, the same word describing primeval giants (Deuteronomy 2:10). Zophar paints death as traumatic terror, not peaceful passing. His graphic description reveals his cruelty toward suffering Job—he wants Job to envision this violent end as his deserved fate.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare involved brutal close combat. Arrows and spears often remained embedded in bodies until extracted—a secondary trauma. Zophar's audience would vividly imagine this scenario. The 'terrors' may also reference death's psychological horror in ancient Near Eastern thought, where Sheol represented shadowy, joyless existence. Without clear resurrection hope, death inspired profound dread.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Zophar's description of death's terrors contrast with the believer's hope in Christ who conquered death?
2. What does Zophar's graphic cruelty toward Job reveal about how theology can be weaponized?
3. How should we speak about divine judgment without delighting in others' potential destruction?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלַךְ	וַיֵּצֵא	מִגֵּיד הַ	וּבִרְכֵק	מִמְרֹכֶת ו
It is drawn	and cometh out	of the body	yea the glittering sword	of his gall
H8025	H3318	H1465	H1300	H4846
יֵצֵא הַ	אֱמִים:	עַל יו		
cometh out	terrors			
H1980	H5921	H367		

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:13 (Parallel theme): His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

Job 18:11 (Parallel theme): Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.

Deuteronomy 32:41 (Word): If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

Job 15:21 (Parallel theme): A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.

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