

Job 20:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.

Analysis

The increase of his house shall depart (יִגֵּל יֵעוּל בֵּיתוֹ, yigel yevul betho)—yigel (shall depart, go into exile) suggests forced removal. Yevul means produce, income, or increase—everything accumulated through labor. **His goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath** (נִגְגָרוֹת בְּיוֹם אָפוֹ, niggaroth beyom appo)—nagar means to flow, pour out, be poured away like water. Yom appo (day of His wrath) clearly identifies divine judgment day.

Zophar concludes his speech with total material loss on judgment day. The irony cuts deep: Job has already experienced exactly this scenario (Job 1:13-22), yet maintained integrity. Zophar's theology cannot explain why the righteous Job suffered what should befall only the wicked. God's answer will come in chapters 38-41, revealing that divine wisdom transcends human retribution formulas. The NT develops this further—material prosperity never indicated spiritual state (Luke 12:15-21, 16:19-31).

Historical Context

Zophar's second speech (Job 20) represents his final contribution to the dialogue. After this, he falls silent—perhaps recognizing his arguments haven't moved Job, or simply having exhausted his theological arsenal. Ancient Near Eastern wisdom assumed divine-human moral symmetry: good deeds bring blessing, evil brings curse. Job's situation defied this framework, forcing later wisdom literature (Ecclesiastes) and ultimately NT revelation to provide fuller answers.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Job's actual experience of loss while righteous demolish Zophar's neat retribution theology?
2. What is the relationship between temporal loss in this life and eternal loss in the day of God's wrath?
3. How does the NT teaching on Christ bearing God's wrath transform how we understand the 'day of His anger'?

Interlinear Text

יִגָּל	יִבֹּל	בֵּית ו	נִגְרֹת	בִּי וּם
shall depart	The increase	of his house	and his goods shall flow away	in the day
H1540	H2981	H1004	H5064	H3117
אַפּוֹ:				
of his wrath				
H639				