

Job 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,

Analysis

Zophar appeals to tradition: 'Knowest thou not this of old, that the triumphing of the wicked is short?' This invocation of ancient wisdom attempts to silence Job through conventional theology. Yet Job's experience challenges this comfortable certainty.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom valued tradition as authoritative. Zophar's appeal to 'old' knowledge reveals how tradition can blind us to present reality.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. When does appealing to traditional wisdom become avoidance of hard questions?
2. How do you balance respect for tradition with honest engagement with reality?

Interlinear Text

הִזְ אֶת	יָדַעְתָּ	מִנִּי	עַד	מִנִּי	שָׁ יָם	אֶדָּם	עָלַי
H2063	Knowest	H4480	thou not this of old	H4480	was placed	since man	H5921
	H3045		H5703		H7760	H120	
אָרֶץ:							
upon earth							
H776							

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