

Job 21:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.

Analysis

Job's rhetorical question: 'How oft is the candle of the wicked put out? and how oft cometh their destruction upon them?' challenges the friends' certainty. Job observes that wicked destruction is not as frequent as claimed, undermining simplistic cause-and-effect theology.

Historical Context

The 'candle' metaphor represents life's light. Ancient observation confirmed what Job states - the wicked often die peacefully, not in calamity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What do you do with observations that challenge your theology?
2. How do you maintain faith when evidence seems to contradict doctrine?

Interlinear Text

כַּמַּה הִנֵּה	נֵר	רֶשַׁע יָדָם	יָדָעַהְיָ	וְכַמַּה אֵל
H4100	How oft is the candle	of the wicked	put out	and how oft cometh
	H5216	H7563	H1846	H935
עַל יְמוֹ	אִידָם	חַבְלֵי יָם	יִחַלֵּק	בְּאַפוֹ:
H5921	their destruction	sorrows	upon them! God distributeth	in his anger
	H343	H2256	H2505	H639

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