

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

כָּפָעַ הַ

H4100

הַכָּנֶד
How oft is the candle

H5216

וְעַ

H7563

וְעַ

רָשַׁעַ נִ

H1846

רָשַׁעַ נִ

יְבָאֵ

H935

and how oft cometh

עַלְיָמוֹ

H5921

בְּשִׁבְעָה
their destruction

H343

חַבְלָיִם

H2256

חַבְלָיִם

יְמִלְלָה

H2505

בְּאָפָּה

H639

עַלְיָמוֹ

H1846

עַלְיָמוֹ

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H1846

עַלְיָמוֹ

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