

# Job 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

## Analysis

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Do the wicked suffer like chaff: 'God distributeth sorrows in his anger.' Job continues questioning—does God actually distribute sorrows to the wicked as frequently as claimed? The imagery of chaff blown by wind and stubble carried by storm suggests how the wicked should be swept away. Job asks: does this actually happen consistently? His honest questioning doesn't deny God's justice but challenges mechanical application of retribution theology.

## Historical Context

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Chaff and stubble were proverbial images for the wicked's fate (Psalm 1:4, Isaiah 40:24). Winnowing separated grain from chaff, with wind carrying away the worthless husks. Job questions whether this prophetic-poetic language describes immediate temporal reality or eschatological judgment.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

1. How do we interpret prophetic and poetic descriptions of judgment as both true and not always immediate?
2. What is the difference between denying divine justice and questioning its timing?
3. How does eschatological judgment resolve apparent temporal injustice?

## Interlinear Text

וְתַּבְּרֵא	וְכָמֵץ	רַוחַ	לְפִנֵּי	פֶּתֶן	בָּנִי	וְתַּבְּרֵא
H1961	They are as stubble	before	the wind	and as chaff	carrieth away	
H8401		H6440	H7307	H4671		H1589

## סופה:

**that the storm**

H5492

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 1:4** (Parallel theme): The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

**Psalms 83:13** (Parallel theme): O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind.

**Psalms 35:5** (Parallel theme): Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.

**Job 13:25** (Parallel theme): Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

**Isaiah 17:13** (Parallel theme): The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

**Isaiah 29:5** (Parallel theme): Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

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