

Job 21:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.

Analysis

Death comes to all conditions: 'One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.' Job observes that death doesn't discriminate based on righteousness—the comfortable and prosperous die just like the suffering. The Hebrew 'tom' (full/perfect) describes peak condition. Physical health doesn't guarantee long life or indicate divine favor. Death's universality relativizes the friends' use of suffering as evidence.

Historical Context

Ancient observation confirmed that death comes to all regardless of condition (Ecclesiastes 9:2-3). The righteous and wicked, healthy and sick, all face mortality. This challenged theological systems that saw death's manner or timing as primary evidence of divine judgment or favor.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does death's universality humble human pretensions to discern divine favor by circumstances?

2. What does it mean that the 'same thing happens to all' temporally while ultimate destinies differ?
3. How does resurrection hope transform death from ending to transition?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלָוִים: שָׁלָאָג | כִּלְוִי תָּמִים | בָּעֵצֶם | בְּמִזְמָת | הַלְּוִי
H2088 One dieth strength in his full H3605 being wholly at ease and quiet
H4191 H6106 H8537 H7946 H7961

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