

Job 21:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.

Analysis

Others die in bitterness: 'And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.' The contrast is stark—one dies in prosperity and ease, another in bitterness never having enjoyed life. Both experience death. Life's circumstances vary radically, but death comes to all. This observation should humble interpretive certainty about suffering indicating divine displeasure.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom recognized life's inequities—some prosper, others suffer. Job's observation that both meet the same end (death) anticipates Ecclesiastes' reflections on life's apparent meaninglessness apart from God's ultimate judgment.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does death's universality relativize the importance of temporal circumstances?

2. What comfort does eternal perspective provide to those who 'never eat with pleasure' in this life?
3. How do we maintain that circumstances matter while recognizing they're not ultimate?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹא בְּרִצְבָּה
H2088 And another dieth H4191
וְמִתְּהִלָּה
H5315 of his soul H5315
בְּמִצְרָבָה
H4751 in the bitterness H4751
וְאֵלֹא אָכַל
H3808 and never eateth H398

ברצבה:

with pleasure

H2896

Additional Cross-References

Job 7:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

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