

Job 22:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore snares are round about thee, and sudden fear troubleth thee;

Analysis

Therefore snares are round about thee (עֲלֶיֶךָ סְבִיבוֹתֶיךָ פְּחִים)—Eliphaz argues Job's suffering (pachim, traps/snares) proves the accusations. The Hebrew savivoteycha (round about you) pictures complete encirclement with no escape—exactly Job's experience (3:23, 19:8).

Sudden fear troubleth thee (וַיִּבְהֶלֶךְ פֶּתָאִם)—Pitom (suddenly) describes the unexpected nature of Job's calamities. Eliphaz correctly describes Job's condition but wrongly attributes it to Job's sin rather than the cosmic test of Job 1-2. The friends' theology cannot account for righteous suffering, so it must deny the possibility.

Historical Context

The 'therefore' (al-ken) formula was used in ancient legal reasoning to connect crime to punishment. Eliphaz uses prosecutorial logic: observed punishment, therefore hidden crime. This retribution principle dominated ancient wisdom literature but is precisely what the book of Job challenges.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does simple cause-and-effect theology fail to account for the complexity of suffering in a fallen world?
2. When has 'logical' theological reasoning led you to wrong conclusions about someone's circumstances?
3. How does the cosmic perspective of Job 1-2 completely reframe the meaning of Job's suffering that Eliphaz cannot see?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כִּי	סְבִיבוֹתַי יָגִד	כִּי יָמִים	וְיָבֵלֶךָ	פֶּחַד
H5921	H3651	are round about	Therefore snares	troubleth	fear
		H5439	H6341	H926	H6343

פְּתָאִים:

thee and sudden

H6597

Additional Cross-References

Job 6:4 (Parallel theme): For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

Job 13:21 (Parallel theme): Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.