

Job 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or darkness, that thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.

Analysis

Or darkness, that thou canst not see (אוֹ-חֹשֶׁךְ לֹא-תִּרְאֶה)—Choshech (darkness) in Hebrew wisdom literature represents confusion, disorientation, and divine absence. Job has repeatedly described this darkness (3:4-9, 10:21-22, 23:17), but Eliphaz treats it as deserved judgment rather than mysterious trial.

Abundance of waters cover thee (וְשִׁפְעַת-מְיִם תַּכֹּלֶב)—Shiph'at-mayim (flood of waters) evokes chaos and destruction, possibly alluding to the Flood judgment. The drowning imagery pictures overwhelming, inescapable calamity. Eliphaz sees divine retribution; Job experiences divine hiddenness (13:24). The same suffering receives radically different interpretations depending on one's theological assumptions.

Historical Context

Ancient Mesopotamian and Israelite thought associated floods with divine judgment (Genesis 6-9). Water imagery appears throughout Job's speeches as a metaphor for overwhelming suffering (6:15-20, 14:11). Darkness and flood together suggest cosmic-level judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Job's experience of God's hiddenness challenge simplistic formulas about God's presence with the righteous?
2. What does it mean to trust God when experiencing 'darkness' and 'floods' that seem to contradict His promises?
3. How should we respond to suffering people—with theological explanations or compassionate presence?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵין	חַשְׁךְ	לֹא	תְּرִא	הַ	וְשָׁפֵעַת	מִ	תִּכְסַבְתָּ
H176	Or darkness	H3808	that thou canst not see	H7200	and abundance	H8229	of waters
	H2822				H4325		H3680

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:54 (Parallel theme): Waters flowed over mine head; then I said, I am cut off.

Jonah 2:3 (Parallel theme): For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

Job 19:8 (Darkness): He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.