

Job 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

Analysis

Yet he filled their houses with good things (וְהוּא מָלָא בְּתִים טֹב) —Mille (filled) indicates abundance; tov (good things) means material prosperity. Eliphaz acknowledges God's generosity even to the wicked—a fact that contradicts strict retribution theology but which he doesn't explore.

But the counsel of the wicked is far from me (וְעֵצֶת רָשִׁים כַּפְקָה מִמֶּנִּי) —This is Job's own statement from 21:16! Eliphaz quotes Job's explicit distancing from the wicked's philosophy and somehow uses it to accuse Job of holding that philosophy. The logical incoherence reveals Eliphaz's desperation. He must convict Job to preserve his theological system, even if it requires ignoring Job's plain words. This is the tragedy of the comforters: their theology has blinded them to both Job's actual character and his actual arguments.

Historical Context

The tension between God's blessing of the wicked and justice theology troubled ancient sages (Psalm 73, Ecclesiastes, Habakkuk). Rather than modifying the retribution principle, Eliphaz doubles down, creating a caricature of Job's position to maintain his worldview.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Eliphaz's quotation of Job's own words against him reveal the danger of confirmation bias in theological disputes?
2. What happens to truth and compassion when preserving our theological system becomes more important than understanding suffering people?
3. How does the prosperity of the wicked challenge simplistic equations between righteousness and blessing?

Interlinear Text

רְשָׁעִים יְמִינֵי אֵת וְאֵת מְלָא בְּתִימָה מִן טְבָב תְּנִצְּתָה יְמִינֵי אֵת וְאֵת
H1931 Yet he filled H4390 their houses H1004 with good H2896 things but the counsel H6098 of the wicked H7563

מְפִין בְּ סַבַּת
is far H4480
H7368

Additional Cross-References

Job 21:16 (Evil): Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

Job 12:6 (Parallel theme): The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

Acts 14:17 (Good): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

1 Samuel 2:7 (Parallel theme): The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

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