

Job 22:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn.

Analysis

The righteous see it, and are glad (וַיִּרְאוּ צַדִּיקִים וַיִּשְׂמְחוּ)—Tsaddiqim (righteous ones) rejoice (yismakhu) at divine justice against the wicked. Eliphaz pictures the righteous celebrating when God judges sinners—a theme from imprecatory psalms (58:10, 107:42).

The innocent laugh them to scorn (וַיִּלְעַגְוּ יְלָאִים)—Naqi (innocent/clean) and yil'ag (mock/deride) complete the picture of vindication. The innocent's laughter celebrates God's justice being manifest. The cruel irony: Eliphaz thinks he and Job's other friends are the righteous witnesses celebrating Job's deserved punishment. In reality, God will vindicate Job and condemn the friends (42:7-9). They are the false witnesses whose counsel will be rejected. The passage predicts its own reversal.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom celebrated the downfall of the wicked as proof of divine justice (Proverbs 11:10). The righteous rejoicing at judgment appears throughout Scripture as theodicy—God's justice will ultimately prevail. Eliphaz applies this to Job, missing that he himself represents false counsel that God will reject.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's ultimate irony (Eliphaz will be rebuked, Job vindicated) warn against premature judgment of others' suffering?
2. What is the difference between rejoicing in God's justice and taking pleasure in another's suffering?
3. How might we be like Eliphaz—so confident in our theological framework that we miss what God is actually doing?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרָא	צַדִּיקִים	וַיִּשְׂמְחוּ	וְהַנְּקִיִּים	וַיִּלְעָגוּ	לְמוֹתוֹ
see	The righteous	it and are glad	and the innocent	laugh them to scorn	H0
H7200	H6662	H8055	H5355	H3932	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:10 (Righteousness): The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

Psalms 107:42 (Righteousness): The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Psalms 52:6 (Righteousness): The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him:

