

# Job 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.

## Analysis

**Whereas our substance is not cut down** (אָמַלָּא נִכְחַד קִימָנוּ)—Qimanu (our rising/substance/existence) contrasts with the wicked's destruction; nichad (cut down/destroyed) echoes verse 16's language. Eliphaz contrasts 'our' (the righteous) security with 'their' (the wicked) judgment.

**But the remnant of them the fire consumeth** (וַיִּתְּבַּעַם אֲכַלָּה אֵשׁ)—Yitram (their remnant/abundance) and achlah esh (fire consumed) invoke Sodom and Gomorrah imagery (Genesis 19:24-28). Fire represents complete, final divine judgment. Eliphaz's entire speech reaches its climax: the wicked get destroyed; we the righteous prosper. The Book of Job's narrative arc proves Eliphaz catastrophically wrong. His substance will be at risk if he doesn't repent and offer sacrifice (42:8). Job's 'remnant' will be doubled by God's blessing (42:10-17). The reversal is total.

## Historical Context

Fire from heaven destroying the wicked appears throughout Scripture as ultimate judgment (Genesis 19, 2 Kings 1:10-12, Revelation 20:9). Eliphaz invokes the most fearsome divine judgment imagery to cement his case against Job. He will learn his theology was true but misapplied—he himself needed divine mercy, not Job.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the book's ending completely reverse Eliphaz's confident assertions about who will be vindicated?
2. What does it mean that Eliphaz needed Job to intercede for him (42:8) after accusing Job of wickedness?
3. How should the book of Job transform our confidence in theological formulas about suffering and prosperity?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵת	לֹא	אָמַם	נִכְמַד	כִּי	מִתְּבָא	אֵת	כָּלָה
Whereas	H3808	is not cut down	our substance	but the remnant	consumeth		
H518		H3582	H7009	H3499	H398		

אֲשֶׁר  
of them the fire  
H784

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 20:26** (Parallel theme): All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

**Job 1:16** (Parallel theme): While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.