

Job 23:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

Analysis

For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me (כִּי־יַשְׁלִים ה'קִי, ki-yashlim chukki)—The verb shalam (שָׁלַם) means "to complete, fulfill, finish." The noun choq (חֹק) denotes a decreed statute or appointed portion. Job confesses divine sovereignty extends to his personal life: God completes what He has ordained. This echoes Philippians 1:6, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it." The phrase **many such things are with him** (וְרַבּוֹת בְּאֵלָהָ עִמּוֹ) amplifies God's comprehensive purposes—not one decree but multitudes. Job's theology is Reformed: God's sovereignty is meticulous, not general.

Yet Job speaks without comfort. Unlike Philippians' assurance, Job fears what God has appointed. This reveals a profound tension: right doctrine about sovereignty paired with existential terror. The same truths that anchor faith can crush hope if we doubt God's goodness. The gospel resolves this: Christ bore God's appointed decree of wrath (Isaiah 53:10), so we receive appointed grace (Ephesians 1:11).

Historical Context

Job's theology of divine decrees aligns with ancient Israelite covenant theology, where God's choq (statutes) governed both cosmic order and individual lives. The Wisdom Literature consistently affirms God's comprehensive sovereignty (Proverbs 16:33, 19:21). Job's fear reflects the pre-Christian struggle to reconcile suffering with divine purpose before the cross revealed God's redemptive plan.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you trust God's appointed purposes when you cannot see His ultimate design?
2. What is the difference between fatalism and biblical sovereignty?
3. How does Christ's fulfillment of God's appointed decree (Acts 2:23) transform our understanding of divine purpose?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יֵשׁוּעַ	דָּבָר	כֵּן	וְלַרְבִּי
H3588	For he performeth	the thing that is appointed	such	for me and many
	H7999	H2706	H2007	H7227

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H5973

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Parallel theme): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 3:3 (Parallel theme): That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Psalms 77:19 (Parallel theme): Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

Psalms 97:2 (Parallel theme): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Job 7:3 (Parallel theme): So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

1 Peter 2:8 (Parallel theme): And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Micah 6:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD'S voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it.