

Job 23:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

Analysis

Job's complaint: 'Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him.' The four-directional search (forward/backward/left/right) emphasizes totality of divine hiddenness. Yet Job continues seeking, modeling faith that pursues despite absence.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology oriented by four directions. Job's exhaustive search reveals both divine transcendence and human limitation in perceiving God's presence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you seek God when He seems absent in all directions?
2. What does persistent seeking despite absence reveal about faith?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אֵת	וְ	אָמַל	נִ	אֵת	וְ	אָמַל	נִ	לֹא
H3808					H268				
for	ward		Behold	I go					
H6924	H1980		H369						

but I cannot perceive H995

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:11 (Parallel theme): Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.

Psalms 10:1 (Parallel theme): Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

Job 35:14 (Parallel theme): Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Isaiah 45:15 (Parallel theme): Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.