

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

וְהָיָה	קָדָם	אֶהְיֶה	וְלֹא	אֶחָד	וְלֹא
H2005	forward	Behold I go	H369	but he is not there and backward	H3808
	H6924	H1980		H268	
	אֲבִי	לֹא			
	but I cannot perceive	H0			
	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.