

Job 24:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no man is sure of life.

Analysis

He draweth also the mighty with his power—The syntax shifts; "he" likely refers to God (though some interpret it as the wicked tyrant). The verb "draweth" (mashak, מָשַׁךְ) means to pull, drag, or extend, suggesting God's sovereign control even over "the mighty" (abbirim, אַבְּרִיִּים)—powerful oppressors. This echoes Job's earlier confession: "With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding" (Job 12:13). God's power exceeds all human might.

He riseth up, and no man is sure of life—When God "rises up" (qum, קָם) to act in judgment, no one's life is secure. The phrase "no man is sure" uses lo ya'amin (לֹא יֵאֱמִין), meaning "does not trust" or "cannot be confident." This anticipates Amos 5:18-20's warning that "the day of the LORD" brings judgment, not deliverance, for the wicked. Job affirms God's ultimate sovereignty but struggles with why He delays rising up against injustice.

Historical Context

The 'mighty' in ancient Near Eastern contexts included kings, military leaders, and wealthy landowners who wielded power often oppressively. Job's acknowledgment that God ultimately controls even these powerful figures reflects monotheistic faith in divine sovereignty over human affairs, contrasting with polytheistic beliefs in multiple competing deities.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's ultimate control over 'the mighty' comfort those currently oppressed by powerful systems or individuals?
2. What does 'no man is sure of life' when God rises in judgment teach about the fleeting nature of earthly security?
3. How should the certainty of God's eventual judgment against the wicked affect our response to present injustice?

Interlinear Text

וְיָמֵשׁ ה'	אֲבִיר יָם	בְּכֹחַ ו'	יִקַּח וּם	וְלֹא	יֵאָמֵר י'
He draweth	also the mighty	with his power	he riseth up	H3808	and no man is sure
H4900	H47	H3581	H6965		H539

בְּחַיֵּי:
of life
H2416