

Job 24:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways.

Analysis

Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth—God grants the wicked temporary security (betach, בֶּטַח), allowing them to rest (sha'an, שָׁאֵן, to lean upon or rely on) in false confidence. This divine permission of prosperity creates Job's theodicy crisis: why does God allow this? Yet sovereignty means God can grant temporary blessing to the wicked for purposes beyond immediate justice—testing the righteous (Job himself), allowing time for repentance (2 Peter 3:9), or demonstrating that earthly prosperity doesn't equal divine approval.

Yet his eyes are upon their ways—Despite granting temporary safety, God's omniscient gaze (einayv al-darkeyhem, עֵינָיו עַל־דַּרְכֵיהֶם) never wavers. "His eyes" emphasizes divine surveillance; "their ways" (derek, דֶּרֶךְ) encompasses conduct, lifestyle, and moral trajectory. This echoes Proverbs 15:3: "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." God's watchful omniscience guarantees eventual accountability, though timing remains mysterious.

Historical Context

The tension between God's sovereignty and delayed judgment permeates wisdom literature (Psalms 37, 73; Ecclesiastes). Job articulates what believers across millennia have felt: empirical observation (the wicked prosper) seemingly contradicts theological conviction (God judges sin). This honest wrestling distinguishes biblical faith from simplistic prosperity theology.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's granting temporary 'safety' to the wicked challenge simplistic equations of prosperity with divine approval?
2. What comfort does 'his eyes are upon their ways' provide when you witness injustice going unpunished?
3. How does knowing that God sees all help you trust His justice even when you don't see His judgment?

Interlinear Text

יֵתֵן	לֹ	לְ בֶטַח	וְיָשָׁעַ	עַיְנֵי יְהוָה	עַל
Though it be given	H0	him to be in safety	whereon he resteth	yet his eyes	H5921
H5414		H983	H8172	H5869	
וְיִרְכָּקֵהֶם:					
are upon their ways					
H1870					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 15:3 (Parallel theme): The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.