

Job 24:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that they have no covering in the cold.

Analysis

They cause the naked to lodge without clothing (ערום ילינו מבל ללבוש, aróm yalínu mibbeli levúsh)—The word aróm (ערום) means naked or poorly clothed, emphasizing extreme poverty. The verb lun (לן) means to lodge or spend the night—these people lack even basic shelter and clothing for nighttime cold. This directly violates Exodus 22:26-27, which commands creditors to return a poor person's cloak by sunset because 'wherein shall he sleep?' God threatens to hear the cry of those denied this basic provision.

That they have no covering in the cold (ו אין להם כסות בקבה, ve'ein lahém kesút baqará)—The kesút (כסות) is a covering or garment, specifically the outer cloak used as a blanket. The qara (קבה, cold) refers to winter's chill or harvest season's cold nights. Job paints a specific, devastating picture: people shivering through cold nights without protection. James echoes this concern: 'If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?' (James 2:15-16).

Historical Context

In the ancient Near East, a single outer garment often served as both daytime clothing and nighttime blanket for the poor. Temperatures in the Levant and Mesopotamia could drop dramatically at night, especially in hill country. Denying someone this basic covering endangered their life. Mosaic law's requirement to

return pledged cloaks by sunset shows God's concern for physical survival needs. Job's description suggests systematic violation of these protections.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's specific concern for nighttime warmth inform our understanding of His care for physical needs?
2. What modern equivalents exist of denying basic necessities while legally justifying such treatment?
3. How can believers ensure that legal and economic systems protect human dignity and survival needs?

Interlinear Text

לְבָשׂ	מִבְלָעֵד	לִיכְנוֹ	עָרָם
They cause the naked	to lodge	H1097	without clothing
H6174	H3885		H369
בְּקַרְבָּהּ	בְּקַרְבָּהּ		
בְּסַתִּים	בְּסַתִּים		
that they have no covering	in the cold		
H3682	H7135		

Additional Cross-References

Job 22:6 (Parallel theme): For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

