

Job 25:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.

Analysis

Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not (הֵן עַד־יָרֵחַ וְלֹא יֶאֱהִיל)—Bildad argues that even the moon (יָרֵחַ, yareach) lacks inherent brightness (לֹא יֶאֱהִיל, lo ya'ahil, 'does not shine') before God's surpassing glory. **Yea, the stars are not pure in his sight** (וְכֹכָבִים לֹא־זָכוּ בְּעֵינָיו)—The stars (כֹּכָבִים, kokavim) are not zakku (זָכוּ, pure, clean) before divine holiness.

This echoes Eliphaz's earlier argument (Job 15:15) and anticipates God's own words (Job 38:7). Yet Bildad draws the wrong conclusion—if celestial bodies fall short of God's purity, this magnifies grace rather than condemning humanity. Isaiah saw the same vision (Isaiah 6:3-5) but received cleansing, not condemnation. The stars' impurity before God doesn't negate human dignity but highlights the wonder of redemption.

Historical Context

Ancient paganism often deified celestial bodies—sun worship in Egypt, moon deities in Mesopotamia, astral religion throughout the ancient Near East. Bildad's assertion that even these luminaries are impure before Yahweh represents radical monotheism, denying divinity to created objects of worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing creation's inadequacy before God's holiness magnify the wonder of redemption?
2. In what ways can emphasis on human sinfulness obscure the gospel of grace?
3. How does Isaiah's temple vision (Isaiah 6) provide a better response than Bildad's to God's unapproachable holiness?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	עַד	יְהוָה	וְלֵיל	וְיָאֵה יֶלֶד	וְכֹכַב יָם	לֹא
H2005	H5704		H3808	H166	H3556	H3808
Behold even to the moon						
H3394						
and it shineth						
H3808						
not yea the stars						
H3556						
וְכֹכַב יָם	וְיָאֵה יֶלֶד	וְכֹכַב יָם	וְיָאֵה יֶלֶד	וְכֹכַב יָם	וְיָאֵה יֶלֶד	וְכֹכַב יָם
H2141	H5869					
are not pure						
H2141						
in his sight						
H5869						

Additional Cross-References

Job 15:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.