

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—Bildad argues that even the moon (יָרֶח, yareach) lacks inherent brightness (לֹא יָאָהִיל, 'does not shine') before God's surpassing glory. **Yea, the stars are not pure in his sight**—(וְכֹכְבִים לֹא־יְפַנֵּן בָּעֵינֵי, kokavim) are not zakku (זָקָן, 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

וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת	וְאֵת
H2005	H5704	Behold even to the moon	H3808	and it shineth	not yea the stars	H3808	
		H3394		H166	H3556		

בְּעִינֵיכֶם
are not pure in his sight

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.

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