

Job 26:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

Analysis

Hell is naked before him—The Hebrew Sheol (שְׁאֹול), here translated 'hell,' refers to the realm of the dead, the underworld where departed spirits go. Arom (עָרֹם, naked) means exposed, bare, without covering—total vulnerability before divine omniscience. **Destruction hath no covering** uses Abaddon (אָבָדָן), the place of destruction or perishing, parallel to Sheol. The phrase ein kesut (אֵין כִּסּוּת) means 'no covering/concealment.'

Job affirms God's exhaustive knowledge penetrates even death and destruction—domains considered beyond human reach. Sheol cannot hide the dead from God's sight (Psalm 139:8, Proverbs 15:11). This prepares for the New Testament revelation that Christ holds the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18), and nothing in all creation—including death—can separate believers from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). Job's suffering doesn't mean God is absent or ignorant; rather, God sees and knows everything, even when His purposes remain mysterious.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures universally conceived of an underworld where the dead existed in shadowy form. Israel's Sheol theology was more restrained than neighboring mythologies, emphasizing God's sovereignty even over death. Job's statement represents advanced revelation for his patriarchal era, anticipating later biblical teaching on resurrection and final judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's omniscience—knowing even the dead in Sheol—comfort or challenge you?
2. What does this verse teach about God's sovereignty over realms that seem beyond His reach?
3. How should the truth that nothing is hidden from God affect your daily life and secret thoughts?

Interlinear Text

לֹא בְּלֹא כָּסֵת וְלֹא נָגֵד יְהִי שָׁא לְלֹא עָרֵם
is naked Hell H5048 H369 hath no covering before him and destruction
H6174 H7585 H3682 H11

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 139:8 (Parallel theme): If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

Proverbs 15:11 (Parallel theme): Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

Hebrews 4:13 (Parallel theme): Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Job 28:22 (Parallel theme): Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

Amos 9:2 (Parallel theme): Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down:

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