

Job 27:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty.

Analysis

This is the portion of a wicked man with God (זֶה חֵלֶק אֲדָם רָשָׁע עִם־אֱלֹהִים)—cheleq (חֵלֶק, portion) refers to one's allotted inheritance or destiny. The wicked man's 'portion with God' is divine judgment. **The heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty** (וְנַחֲלָהת עֹרִיצִים מִשְׁדֵּי יְקָחוּ)—nachalah (נַחֲלָה, heritage/inheritance) parallels 'portion,' emphasizing what the aritsim (עֹרִיצִים, oppressors/tyrants) will receive from Shaddai (שְׁדַי).

Job begins describing the wicked's ultimate fate (verses 13-23), affirming orthodox retribution theology—but with crucial qualification. The wicked do receive judgment, but not necessarily immediately or visibly in this life. This nuances his friends' simplistic formula while maintaining divine justice. The 'portion' and 'heritage' language draws on covenant theology: just as Israel received a land inheritance, the wicked receive judgment as their allotted portion. This prefigures Jesus's warnings about the unrighteous's 'portion' with hypocrites (Matthew 24:51) and the final judgment where each receives according to their deeds.

Historical Context

The concept of 'portion' (cheleq) and 'heritage' (nachalah) derives from Israel's land distribution theology but applies universally to divine justice. Job affirms that oppressors ultimately answer to Shaddai (the Almighty), a name emphasizing God's sovereign power to execute judgment regardless of earthly power structures.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Job's teaching on the wicked's ultimate 'portion' balance divine justice with the reality that judgment is often delayed?
2. What comfort does the certainty of God's final judgment provide when facing unpunished oppression in this life?
3. How should the doctrine of final judgment affect how Christians respond to injustice now?

Interlinear Text

זֶה הוּא	חֵלֶק	אִישׁ מִן	רָשָׁע עוֹלָם	אֵל לֵאלֹהִים	וְנַחֲלָתוֹ
H2088	This is the portion	man	of a wicked	H5973 with God	and the heritage
	H2506	H120	H7563	H410	H5159
עַל רִיבָיו יִמְשֹׁךְ	יְהוָה	וְיִקְחוּ:			
of oppressors	of the Almighty	which they shall receive			
H6184	H7706	H3947			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 3:11 (Evil): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.