

Job 27:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place.

Analysis

The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place. Job describes the wicked person's sudden destruction through vivid meteorological imagery. The **east wind** (קָדִים, qadim) in Palestine refers to the scorching sirocco that blows from the Arabian desert—hot, dry, and destructive. This wind withers vegetation (Genesis 41:6; Ezekiel 17:10; Hosea 13:15) and represents divine judgment throughout Scripture.

The verb יִשָּׂאֵהוּ (yissa'ehu, "carrieth him away") suggests being lifted and removed with irresistible force—the wicked cannot resist God's judgment any more than a plant can resist the sirocco. **And he departeth** (וַיֵּלֶךְ, vayyelekh) means he goes away or passes on, emphasizing the finality of removal from earthly life and blessing. The wicked disappears like chaff before the wind (Psalm 1:4).

And as a storm hurleth him uses the intensive Piel form of סָעַר (sa'ar), meaning to whirl away violently. **Out of his place** (מִמְּקוֹמוֹ, mimmeqomo) indicates removal from his established position—home, community, and security. This echoes Proverbs 10:25: "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation." The imagery portrays sudden, violent, complete removal—divine judgment leaves nothing secure.

Job 27 presents an irony: Job himself has experienced the fate he here describes for the wicked. The friends would point this out as proof of Job's guilt. Yet Job maintains his innocence while acknowledging this pattern of divine judgment. The

chapter explores the mystery that righteous suffering temporarily resembles the wicked's judgment, yet God ultimately distinguishes between them. This prefigures Christ's experience—suffering the fate of the wicked (Isaiah 53:12) while remaining perfectly righteous.

Historical Context

Job 27 continues Job's response to his friends' accusations. Throughout the dialogue, Job has maintained his innocence while his friends insist his suffering proves hidden wickedness. In chapter 27, Job ironically describes the fate of the wicked using language that his friends might apply to him—sudden disaster, loss of family, and death without honor.

The east wind's destructive power was proverbial in ancient Near Eastern literature. Egyptian texts describe the devastating khamsin winds from the desert. In the Bible, God uses the east wind to bring locusts on Egypt (Exodus 10:13), to part the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21), and as an instrument of judgment (Isaiah 27:8; Jeremiah 18:17). Jonah experienced scorching east wind as chastisement (Jonah 4:8). The image of wind removing the wicked appears in wisdom literature as a common motif (Psalm 1:4; 35:5; 58:9; Proverbs 1:27).

Job's description of the wicked's fate serves multiple purposes: it demonstrates his understanding of divine justice (refuting claims he's ignorant), it maintains his innocence (he distinguishes himself from the wicked), and it wrestles with the problem that he's experiencing what seems like judgment reserved for evildoers. The book's resolution reveals that suffering doesn't always indicate divine judgment—sometimes God tests the righteous, refines their faith, and demonstrates His glory through their perseverance.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Job's description of the wicked's judgment help us distinguish between suffering as divine judgment and suffering as divine testing?
2. What comfort can believers find when their circumstances temporarily resemble judgment on the wicked?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| וְשָׁאָהוּ | וְיָלַךְ קֶדֶם יָם | וְיִשְׁעֶר הוּא | מִמְקוֹמוֹ: |
| wind carrieth him away | The east | and as a storm hurleth | him out of his place |
| H5375 | H6921 | H8175 | H4725 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:6 (Parallel theme): Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Psalms 83:15 (Parallel theme): So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm.

Psalms 58:9 (Parallel theme): Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.

Job 21:18 (Parallel theme): They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

Job 7:10 (Parallel theme): He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.