

Job 27:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For God shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand.

Analysis

For God shall cast upon him, and not spare (וַיִּשְׁלֶךְ עָלָיו וְלֹא יַחְמֹל, ve-yashlekh alav velo yachmol)—The verb shalak (שָׁלַךְ) means "to hurl, throw violently," used of God casting down enemies (Exodus 15:1). The phrase "not spare" uses chamal (חָמַל), meaning to pity or have compassion. Job describes divine wrath as relentless missiles against the wicked. The phrase **he would fain flee out of his hand** (בָּרוּחַ יִבְרַח מִיָּדוֹ) uses barach (בָּרַח, "flee") doubled for intensity. The wicked desperately tries escaping God's hand (yad, power), but futilely.

This echoes Amos 5:19: "As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him." There is no escape from divine judgment. Hebrews 10:31 warns, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Job's theodicy argues the wicked cannot ultimately prosper—God's justice, though delayed, is certain. This anticipates Romans 2:5, storing up wrath against the day of wrath.

Historical Context

Job's friends argued suffering proves wickedness (retribution theology). Job counters that the wicked often prosper temporarily (Job 21), but ultimate judgment is certain. This aligns with Psalms 37 and 73—the righteous must wait for God's justice. Ancient wisdom literature across cultures struggled with delayed justice; Job affirms divine judgment while rejecting simplistic retribution theology.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of divine judgment provide comfort to those suffering injustice?
2. What is the difference between God's temporal judgments and final judgment?
3. How should believers balance present grace with future wrath when considering God's character?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלֵךְ	וְלֹא	יָחֵם	מִיָּדוֹ	יִבָּרַח:
For God shall cast		upon him and not spare	out of his hand	flee
H7993	H5921 H3808	H2550	H3027	H1272

יִבָּרַח:
flee
H1272