

Job 29:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.

Analysis

After my words they spake not again (אַחֲרַי־דְּבָרַי לֹא יִשְׁנּוּ, acharei-devari lo yishnu)—Shanah (spake again, repeated) means to do a second time or repeat. Job's words were so conclusive, so weighted with wisdom, that no rebuttal was necessary or possible. This finality contrasts with the endless cycles of speeches in Job's current ordeal.

My speech dropped upon them (וַאֲלֵיהֶם תִּטֹּף מִלָּתִי, va'aleihem titoph millati)—The verb nataph (dropped) describes gentle falling like dew or rain, used prophetically for words that distill truth (Deuteronomy 32:2, Amos 7:16). Job's millah (speech, utterance) descended with refreshing, life-giving power. The agricultural metaphor prepares for verse 23's rain imagery, showing how wisdom nourishes like precipitation nourishes crops.

Historical Context

The metaphor of speech as rain or dew reflects the agricultural dependence of ancient Israel. In a semi-arid climate, gentle rain (not torrential downpour) was essential for crop success. Similarly, wise counsel needed to be measured, timely, and absorbable. Job's speech had this penetrating quality that sank deep rather than running off like water on hardened soil (compare the parable of the sower, Matthew 13:3-23).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What made Job's words so final that no one needed to 'speak again' or add corrections?
2. How does the image of speech 'dropping like dew' contrast with harsh, forceful argumentation?
3. When has God's Word dropped on your heart with refreshing power rather than crushing weight?

Interlinear Text

אַחֲרַי	דְּבָרַי	לֹא	יִשָּׁנוּ	וְעַל יָמוֹ	תָּטַף
After	my words	H3808	they spake not again	H5921	dropped
H310	H1697		H8138		H5197

מִלִּי:
and my speech
H4405

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:2 (Parallel theme): My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Isaiah 52:15 (Parallel theme): So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Matthew 22:46 (Word): And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Ezekiel 20:46 (Word): Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop thy word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field;

Song of Solomon 4:11: Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.

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