

Job 29:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;

Analysis

Job reminisces: 'As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle.' This recalls intimacy with God ('the secret') and blessing ('upon my tabernacle'). Nostalgia for lost fellowship intensifies present alienation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern 'secrets' referred to intimate counsel shared among friends. Job's memory of divine friendship makes present estrangement more painful.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does memory of past intimacy with God affect present suffering?
2. What does it mean to have 'the secret of God' upon your dwelling?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| כְּאֲשֶׁר | הָיִיתִי | בַּיָּמִי | חֲרָפָי | בְּסֹד | אֵל לֹהֶ |
| H834 | H1961 | As I was in the days | of my youth | when the secret | of God |
| | | H3117 | H2779 | H5475 | H433 |
| עָלַי | אֶהְיֶה: | | | | |
| H5921 | was upon my tabernacle | | | | |
| | H168 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:14 (Parallel theme): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Proverbs 3:32 (Parallel theme): For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

Psalms 27:5 (Temple): For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Job 15:8 (References God): Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?

Job 1:10 (Parallel theme): Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.