

Job 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?

Analysis

Job describes himself as one 'whose way is hid' and whom 'God hath hedged in.' The imagery of God's hedge appears earlier as protection (1:10), but now Job experiences it as confinement. This paradox captures the mystery of divine providence - the same God who protects can also perplex.

Historical Context

The Hebrew word 'hedged' (sakak) suggests both protection and imprisonment, revealing how suffering can make God's presence feel like absence. This anticipates Christ's cry of dereliction (Matthew 27:46).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced God's protection as confinement during suffering?
2. How do you reconcile God's loving presence with painful circumstances?

Interlinear Text

לָ גֶבֶר	אֲשֶׁר	דִּרְכֵּי י	נִסְתָּ כֹה	וַיִּסָּךְ
Why is light given to a man	H834	whose way	is hid	hath hedged in
H1397		H1870	H5641	H5526
אֶל וְהִ	בְּעֵדוֹ:			
and whom God	H1157			
H433				

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:8 (Parallel theme): He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

Lamentations 3:7 (Parallel theme): He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.

Isaiah 40:27 (References God): Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?