

Job 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above,
neither let the light shine upon it.

Analysis

Job curses the day of his birth, wishing it had been darkness rather than light. The Hebrew 'choshek' (darkness) contrasts with creation's first day when God separated light from darkness (Genesis 1:3-4). Job's wish for his birth day to retroactively become darkness reveals his desire for non-existence rather than continued suffering. This doesn't constitute suicide—Job never takes action against his life—but expresses the legitimate feeling that death would be preferable to agony. Even this God permits in Scripture.

Historical Context

Cursing one's birth day parallels Ancient Near Eastern lament traditions (compare Jeremiah 20:14-18), representing permissible hyperbolic expression of grief rather than literal magical attempts to alter the past.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced suffering so intense that you wished you'd never been born?
2. How does Job's honest expression of his feelings model authentic relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

הַיּוֹם	וַיְהִי	יְהוָה	וַאֲ	חֹשֶׁךְ	אֶל	יְדָרְשׁ	הוּא	אֶל	וְהוֹ
Let that day				be darkness		regard		let not God	
H3117	H1931	H1961		H2822	H408	H1875		H433	
מִמֶּנּוּ	עַל	תִּפְּ	ע	יֹ	נִהְיָה:				
it from above		shine			neither let the light				
H4605	H408	H3313		H5921	H5105				

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