

Job 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months.

Analysis

Job wishes that darkness would seize the night of his conception, that it be excluded from the numbering of months and days. The Hebrew 'laqach' (seize/take) suggests violent possession—Job wants that night captured and removed from the calendar of time. This reflects the ancient understanding that conception, not birth, initiates human existence (Psalm 51:5). Job's wish extends beyond his birth to his very origin, expressing total despair over his existence.

Historical Context

Ancient calendrical systems carefully numbered days within months and months within years. Job's wish that his conception night be excluded from this reckoning reflects the cultural importance of temporal ordering.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Job's regret extending to his conception reflect the depth of his anguish?
2. What does Scripture's preservation of Job's lament teach us about God's patience with our darkest thoughts?

Interlinear Text

הַלַּיְלָה	יִקְחֶהָ וְהָיָה	אֶלְכָּל	אֶל	
As for that night	seize	let darkness		
H3915	H1931 H3947	H652	H408	
! חִדָּךְ	בַּיָּמִים	שָׁנָה	בְּמִסְפַּר	! כְּחֹדֶשִׁים
upon it let it not be joined	unto the days	of the year	into the number	of the months
H2302	H3117	H8141	H4557	H3391
אֶל	יָבֹא:			
H408	let it not come			
	H935			