

Job 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.

Analysis

Job invokes those who curse days and are ready to 'raise up mourning' (or 'rouse leviathan'—Hebrew 'livyatan'). This may refer to professional cursers/magicians believed able to invoke chaos against days, or to mythological imagery of sea monsters representing cosmic disorder. Job's rhetoric reaches for the most powerful forces of curse and chaos to express his wish for non-existence, yet remains within poetic bounds rather than actual invocation of pagan magic.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures included professional cursers and magicians. Leviathan appears in Canaanite mythology as a chaos monster, though Scripture later uses this imagery to demonstrate YHWH's sovereignty over all supposed rival powers (Job 41; Psalm 74:14).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Job's use of mythological imagery help him express the inexpressible?
2. What boundaries exist between using cultural metaphors and actually engaging in pagan practices?

Interlinear Text

לְיִתְּנֻ: עֲבָדָךְ יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ הַזָּהָר אֶרְרַי אֶלְקָנָן כְּלָבָד יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ הַזָּהָר
Let them curse it that curse the day who are ready to raise up their mourning
H5344 H779 H3117 H6264 H5782 H3882

Additional Cross-References

Job 41:1 (Parallel theme): Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

Job 41:10 (Parallel theme): None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?

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