

Job 30:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me, they have also let loose the bridle before me.

Analysis

Because he hath loosed my cord (כִּי־יָתַר פָּתַח)—The Hebrew yether (יָתַר) means tent cord or bowstring, either image suggesting structural collapse. God has loosened what held Job's life taut and functional—the tent of his prosperity has collapsed, or his strength is unbent like a slack bow. The verb pitach (פָּתַח) means to open, loose, or untie. Job recognizes divine agency in his unraveling.

Afflicted me (וַיַּעֲנֵנִי)—The verb anah (עָנָה) means to oppress, humble, or bring low, the same term for Israel's Egyptian bondage (Exodus 1:11-12). Job frames his suffering theologically: God is the primary actor. **They have also let loose the bridle before me** (וַיִּרְסֻן מִפְּנֵי שִׁלְחוֹ)—Seeing God's hand against Job, his mockers throw off all restraint (resen, רָסַן, meaning bridle or restraint). Divine discipline emboldens human cruelty—when people perceive someone under God's judgment, they feel licensed to join the attack.

Historical Context

The tent cord imagery reflects nomadic life in ancient Uz. A loosened tent cord meant immediate structural failure and exposure to elements. The bridle metaphor comes from animal husbandry—a horse without bridle runs wild. Job's accusers interpret his suffering as proof of divine rejection, which in honor-shame culture meant he's lost all social protections. Ancient Near Eastern thought directly connected blessing with righteousness, suffering with sin—making Job's protestations of innocence incomprehensible to observers.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over suffering affect how we interpret our trials?
2. Why do people often intensify their attacks on those already suffering? How should Christians respond differently?
3. What does Job's honesty about feeling attacked by both God and man teach us about prayer during dark seasons?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְיָתַר	כִּי	וַיַּעַן	וְיָרֶס	מִפְּנֵי
H3588	my cord	Because he hath loosed	and afflicted	the bridle	before
	H3499	H6605	H6031	H7448	H6440
שְׁלַח:					
me they have also let loose					
H7971					