

Job 30:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Terrors are turned upon me: they pursue my soul as the wind:
and my welfare passeth away as a cloud.

Analysis

Terrors are turned upon me (הִפָּךְ עָלַי בְּלָהוֹת)—The verb haphak (הִפָּךְ) means to turn, overturn, or transform; ballahot (בְּלָהוֹת) means terrors, sudden frights, or things that cause dismay. What Job once knew as blessing has been turned into horror. The same hand that gave has taken (1:21), but the psychological effect is terrifying uncertainty—if God can reverse everything overnight, there's no security.

They pursue my soul as the wind (וַתִּרְדֹּף כְּרוּחַ נְדִיבָהּ)—Radaph (רָדַף) means to pursue, chase, or persecute; nedivah (נְדִיבָהּ) means willing spirit, nobility, or soul. The wind metaphor suggests invisible, ungraspable pursuit—Job cannot fight what he cannot see or catch. **My welfare passeth away as a cloud** (וַתִּעָבֶר כְּעָב יְשׁוּעָהּ)—Yeshu'ah (יְשׁוּעָהּ) means salvation, deliverance, or welfare; av (עָב) means cloud or dark cloud. What was substantial has become vapor, dissipating before his eyes. Isaiah uses similar imagery: our righteousness is as 'a vapor' (Isaiah 64:6).

Historical Context

Terror (ballahot) in ancient thought included both physical dangers and psychological dread. Job's terrors are comprehensive: social, physical, emotional, spiritual. The wind and cloud metaphors were common in Hebrew poetry for transience—morning clouds that vanish (Hosea 6:4), wind that blows and is gone (Psalm 103:16). Ancient Near Eastern peoples, dependent on predictable seasons

and weather, understood the anxiety of beneficial conditions (clouds bringing rain) disappearing. Job's security has proven as reliable as morning mist.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we maintain faith when the terror isn't from visible enemies but from God's seeming absence or opposition?
2. What 'welfare' or securities have you seen vanish like clouds? How did that loss reshape your understanding of true security?
3. How does Job's description of terrors 'turned upon' him resonate with sudden reversals of fortune in modern life?

Interlinear Text

הָהֵפְךָ	עַל־י	בָּלָה וְ	תִּרְדָּו־י	כְּרוּחַ	נַדְבַת־י
are turned	H5921	Terrors	upon me they pursue	as the wind	my soul
H2015		H1091	H7291	H7307	H5082
וְכַעַב	עָבָה ה	יִשְׁעֵתִי:			
as a cloud	passeth away	and my welfare			
H5645	H5674	H3444			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 13:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.

Isaiah 44:22 (Parallel theme): I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Job 6:4 (Parallel theme): For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

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