

Job 33:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth:

Analysis

His flesh shall be fresher than a child's (ruṭpaš bēśārô minneō'ar, רֹטְפָאֵשׁ בְּעֶשֶׂארוֹ מִנְנֶעוֹ'אר)—After describing suffering's descent toward death (vv.19-22), Elihu pivots to restoration. The verb rāṭap (rare form, to be fresh, soft, supple) describes flesh (bāśār) renewed beyond its former state—fresher than a youth's (nō'ar). This isn't mere recovery but transformation surpassing original condition. The comparison to childhood evokes Psalm 103:5: 'thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.' Divine healing restores what sickness consumed.

Verses 23-24 (not assigned but providing context) describe a mediator-angel who declares God's ransom and commands: 'Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom' (kōper, כֹּפֶר). This redemption produces the restoration in verse 25—flesh renewed because ransom was paid. This foreshadows Christ as mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) whose ransom-death (Mark 10:45) purchases not just spiritual salvation but bodily resurrection. The flesh's renewal anticipates glorified bodies believers will receive.

Historical Context

Ancient medicine could not reverse advanced wasting disease. Restoration from death's door required miraculous intervention—as with Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-7) or resurrection miracles. Elihu's theology of redemptive suffering includes restoration as the goal: God wounds and heals (Deuteronomy 32:39). The ransom

concept (kōper) came from Israel's legal system where payment substituted for punishment—foundational to atonement theology.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of restoration 'fresher than a child's' encourage perseverance through current suffering?
2. In what ways does physical healing point to the greater resurrection hope where bodies will be glorified beyond their original condition?
3. How does understanding Christ as the ransom (v.24 context) who delivers from 'the pit' transform your view of salvation?

Interlinear Text

הָרֵטֶף שׁ	בָּשָׂר וְ	מִנְּעַר	וְ שׁ וְ	לַיָּמִי	עַל־יָמָיו:
shall be fresher	His flesh	than a child's	he shall return	to the days	of his youth
H7375	H1320	H5290	H7725	H3117	H5934

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 103:5 (Parallel theme): Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

2 Kings 5:14 (Parallel theme): Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Deuteronomy 34:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Job 42:16 (Parallel theme): After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

Hosea 2:15 (Parallel theme): And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org