

Job 33:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Analysis

He will deliver his soul from going into the pit (פָּדָה נַפְשׁוֹ מֵעֵבֶר בַּשַּׁחַת, padah naphsho me'avor bashachat)—The verb padah (פָּדָה) means "to ransom, redeem" through payment of a price. This is Exodus redemption language (Exodus 13:13, 15:13). The noun nephesh (נֶפֶשׁ, soul/life) represents the whole person. The shachat (שַׁחַת, pit) symbolizes death, Sheol, destruction (Psalm 30:3, 103:4). Elihu describes divine rescue from death. The phrase **his life shall see the light** (וְחַיָּתוֹ בְּאוֹר תִּרְאֶה) uses chayyah (חַיָּה, life) and or (אוֹר, light), symbol of life, favor, salvation (Psalm 36:9, 56:13).

This is proto-gospel language: redemption by ransom from death to life and light. Job 19:25's confession, "I know that my redeemer liveth," uses the same ga'al redemption terminology. Elihu's theology anticipates Christ, the ultimate Redeemer who paid the ransom (Mark 10:45, 1 Timothy 2:6) to deliver souls from the pit. Christ descended into death (1 Peter 3:19, Apostles' Creed) and rose, bringing believers from darkness to light (Colossians 1:13, 1 Peter 2:9).

Historical Context

Israelite theology struggled with death and afterlife understanding. The pit (shachat) or Sheol represented the grave, shadowy existence. Early OT texts offer limited hope beyond death (Ecclesiastes 9:10), but later texts develop resurrection hope (Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19). Elihu's language of redemption from the pit

suggests emerging confidence in God's power over death, fully revealed in Christ's resurrection (2 Timothy 1:10, "abolished death").

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's redemption fulfill Elihu's vision of deliverance from the pit?
2. What does seeing "the light" mean in terms of salvation and eternal life?
3. How should the certainty of redemption shape our view of physical death?

Interlinear Text

תְּרָאָה:	בָּא וְ	יְחַיֵּת י	בֶּשֶׁת חַת	יִמְעַב ר	נַפְשִׁי	פָּדֶה
shall see	the light	and his life	into the pit	from going	his soul	He will deliver
H7200	H216	H2416	H7845	H5674	H5315	H6299

Additional Cross-References

Job 33:24 (Parallel theme): Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

Job 3:9 (Light): Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day:

Job 33:22 (Parallel theme): Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers.

Job 3:16 (Light): Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light.

