

Job 33:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

Analysis

To bring back his soul from the pit (לְהָשִׁיב נַפְשׁוֹ מִנִּי־שְׁחַת, lehashiv naphsho minni-shachat)—The verb shuv (שׁוּב, in Hiphil "to bring back, restore") is key conversion/repentance language throughout Scripture. The causative stem indicates God actively restores. This echoes Psalm 23:3: "He restoreth my soul." The phrase **to be enlightened with the light of the living** (לְאוֹר הַחַיִּים, le'or be'or hachayyim) uses double light imagery. The "light of the living" contrasts with death's darkness (Psalm 56:13, Job 33:28). To be enlightened is to experience restoration to full life and divine favor.

This restoration language anticipates NT conversion theology: being "delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). John 8:12 declares Christ "the light of the world"—those following Him "shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Elihu's vision of God restoring souls from the pit finds ultimate fulfillment in regeneration (Titus 3:5) and final resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

Historical Context

Light/darkness dualism was prominent in ancient Near Eastern thought, but biblical usage is unique. Light isn't merely natural vs. supernatural but represents God's presence, life, truth (Psalm 27:1, 119:105). The Qumran community (Dead Sea Scrolls) developed elaborate light/darkness theology. NT writers, especially

John (John 1:4-9, 1 John 1:5-7), build on OT foundations, presenting Christ as ultimate Light conquering darkness.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does conversion involve being brought from the pit to the light?
2. What does it mean practically to live "enlightened with the light of the living"?
3. How does God's work of restoration demonstrate sovereign grace?

Interlinear Text

לְהָשִׁיב	בְּנֵי	מִנִּי	שֶׁחַת	לִי	אֶל	בָּא
To bring back	his soul	H4480	from the pit	to be enlightened		with the light
H7725	H5315		H7845	H215		H216

הַחַיִּים:
of the living
H2416

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 56:13 (Light): For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Isaiah 38:17 (Parallel theme): Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

Job 33:28 (Light): He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Isaiah 2:5 (Light): O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Acts 26:18 (Light): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

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.

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.