

Job 36:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait into a broad place, where there is no straitness; and that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness.

Analysis

Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait (וְאִףּ הָסִיתְךָ מִפִּי־צָר, v'af hasit'kha mi-pi tsar)—Elihu shifts from warning to promise, using the verb hasit (to entice, allure, remove) suggesting God's gracious desire to deliver Job from his narrow place (tsar). The imagery is spatial: moving from confinement to **a broad place** (רָחָב, rachav), the same word David uses in Psalm 18:19 when God 'brought me forth into a large place.'

Where there is no straitness (תַּחְתֶּיהָ, tachteha)—literally 'under it' or 'instead of it,' emphasizing the contrast between confinement and freedom. The promise continues: **that which should be set on thy table should be full of fatness** (נַחַת שְׁלֹחַן־כָּה מֵלֵא דָשֵׁן, nachat shulchan'kha male dashen). The word dashen means 'fat, richness, abundance'—the choicest portions reserved for celebration. Elihu argues that if Job would only submit to God's discipline rather than resist it, God would replace his suffering with abundant blessing. This echoes the pattern throughout Scripture where humility leads to exaltation (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6).

Historical Context

The imagery of 'broad place' versus 'narrow place' resonated deeply in ancient Near Eastern culture where spatial freedom represented safety and prosperity. Enclosed spaces (sieges, prisons, narrow passes) meant danger and constraint.

The promise of a table full of fatness reflects patriarchal hospitality where abundant food demonstrated blessing and honor (Psalm 23:5).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'narrow places' in your life might be divine discipline intended to lead you to greater freedom?
2. How does resisting God's correction keep us trapped in confinement when He desires to bring us into spacious blessing?
3. In what ways does God set a table of abundance after seasons of discipline and testing?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם H637	הִסִּיתְךָ H5496	מִפִּי H6310	צָר H6862
Even so would he have removed	thee out of the strait		
כִּנְחָב H7338	לֹא H3808	מוֹצָק H4164	תַּחֲתֵי יָדָה H8478
into a broad place	there is no straitness	where	
וְכִי תִּהְיֶה H5183	שֶׁ לְחֻנֶּה H7979	מִלֵּא H4390	דֶּשֶׁן: H1880
and that which should be set	on thy table	should be full	of fatness

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 23:5 (Parallel theme): Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalms 118:5 (Parallel theme): I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.

Isaiah 25:6 (Parallel theme): And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Psalms 31:8 (Parallel theme): And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.

Psalms 63:5 (Parallel theme): My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Psalms 18:19 (Parallel theme): He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Isaiah 55:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Job 19:8 (Parallel theme): He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

Hosea 2:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.