

Job 38:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

Analysis

"That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?" God describes dawn gripping earth's edges like shaking out a garment, dislodging the wicked who operate under darkness's cover. The Hebrew yinnater (רִנָּתֶר, "be shaken out") suggests vigorous action. This reveals God's moral governance—light exposes and disrupts wickedness. The imagery anticipates final judgment when Christ the Light fully expels all darkness and evil. Dawn becomes God's daily reminder that evil's reign is temporary and light will triumph.

Historical Context

Ancient criminals often worked at night, as do modern ones. Dawn brought renewed social order and safety. The ancient world lacked artificial lighting, making night genuinely dangerous. God's daily provision of light thus represented both physical and moral order being reasserted. This would encourage Job that God actively opposes evil despite appearances.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does daily sunrise serve as God's reminder that He opposes wickedness and champions righteousness?
2. In what ways should we, as children of light, participate in exposing and opposing works of darkness?

Interlinear Text

לְאַחֲרֵי בְּכָנָפָה וְלִזְמַעַן
That it might take hold of the ends of the earth might be shaken out
H270 H3671 H776 H5287

מִמְּנָה: רְשָׁעַ יְמִינָה
that the wicked H4480
H7563

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:35 (Evil): Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

Job 37:3 (Parallel theme): He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.

Exodus 14:27 (Parallel theme): And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.