

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* (יָנַעַר, "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

לִּאֲחֹזֶה	בְּכִנּוֹף אוֹת	הָאֶרֶץ	וַיִּנָּעַר וְ
That it might take hold	of the ends	of the earth	might be shaken out
H270	H3671	H776	H5287
מִמְּנוֹהַּ:	רָשָׁעִים יִמָּחֶה		
	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.