

Job 38:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.

Analysis

"And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken." Darkness is paradoxically called the wicked's "light" (orem, אורֹם)—the medium in which they operate. Dawn withholds this, exposing evil. The "high arm" (zero'a ramah, זְרוֹעַ רָמָה) represents violence and oppression being broken. This reveals God's justice—He systematically undermines evil's power. The verse assures sufferers that God actively opposes wickedness, even when His timing differs from ours. It anticipates Christ breaking Satan's power and every oppressive force.

Historical Context

Ancient societies lacked effective nighttime law enforcement. Criminals exploited darkness. Dawn brought communal security and justice. The "high arm" imagery suggests violence and proud defiance. God's promise to break such arms would encourage victims of oppression throughout Israel's history, from Egyptian bondage to Babylonian captivity.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse comfort those suffering under oppression or injustice?
2. In what ways has Christ decisively "broken the high arm" of evil powers?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| וְיִמְנֶה עַ | יְמִינֵהוּ יָם | אֹרְחָם | זֶרַע וְעַ | כִּי מִה |
| is witholden | And from the wicked | their light | arm | and the high |
| H4513 | H7563 | H216 | H2220 | H7311 |

תִּשְׁבֹּר:

shall be broken

H7665

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 10:15 (Evil): Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none.

Psalms 37:17 (Evil): For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

Job 18:5 (Light): Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

Proverbs 4:19 (Evil): The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Job 5:14 (Parallel theme): They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.

Job 18:18 (Light): He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.

Ezekiel 30:22 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand.

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