

Job 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The old lion perisheth for lack of prey, and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.

Analysis

Eliphaz continues the lion metaphor: 'The old lion perisheth for lack of prey, and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.' The imagery suggests that even if the powerful wicked seem secure, they ultimately perish. Their children (whelps) are scattered, losing their inheritance. Eliphaz subtly implies Job's loss of children proves he was a 'lion'—a powerful oppressor now justly judged. This is cruel theology that adds spiritual accusation to material suffering.

Historical Context

The scattering of a powerful person's offspring was seen in the ancient world as evidence of divine curse, representing the complete extinction of their legacy and name.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to those who interpret your losses as evidence of God's judgment?

2. In what ways might true statements about God's justice be weaponized against the suffering?

Interlinear Text

לִישׁ	אֵי ד	מִבְּלִי	טָרֵף	וּבְנֵי י	לִבַּיָּא
The old lion	perisheth	for lack	of prey	whelps	and the stout lion's
H3918	H6	H1097	H2964	H1121	H3833

יִתְפָּרְדּוּ:

are scattered abroad

H6504

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:10 (Parallel theme): The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

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