

Job 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:

Analysis

Eliphaz continues: 'Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up.' The Hebrew 'ruach' (spirit) could be divine or demonic. The physical response—hair standing up—indicates terror rather than peace. Notably, God's revelations to prophets often begin with 'fear not' (Daniel 10:12, Luke 1:13), while demonic encounters produce unqualified terror. Eliphaz's vision lacks the divine comfort and clarity that marks genuine revelation from God.

Historical Context

Spirit encounters in ancient Near Eastern literature often included physical terror responses. The ambiguity of whether this spirit was from God or demonic forces reflects ancient theological uncertainty about the source of such experiences.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between divine and demonic spiritual experiences?

2. What characteristics mark genuine revelation from God versus counterfeit spiritual encounters?

Interlinear Text

וְרוּחַ	עַל	פְּנֵי	יָחַל	תָּסֵמַר	שֵׁעַר	בְּשָׁרִי:
Then a spirit	before my face	passed	stood up	the hair	of my flesh	
H7307	H5921	H6440	H2498	H5568	H8185	H1320

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 1:7 (Spirit): And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Psalms 104:4 (Spirit): Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: