

Job 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:

Analysis

The vision's message: 'Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly.' This statement is partially true—angels are creatures and can rebel (2 Peter 2:4)—but Eliphaz misapplies it. He'll argue that if God cannot trust angels, He certainly cannot trust humans, making all human suffering deserved judgment. This logic denies grace and implies salvation is impossible. True Reformed theology affirms God's elect are preserved precisely because God's trust rests on Christ's righteousness, not our own.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern mythology included stories of divine beings rebelling against the high god. Eliphaz's reference to angels charged with folly may allude to such traditions or to the biblical account of fallen angels.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Eliphaz's vision contradict the gospel of grace?

2. In what ways does focus on human unworthiness apart from Christ's merit lead to false conclusions about suffering?

Interlinear Text

וְיֶשׁ יְמִינְךָ בְּמַלְאָכִים וְאֶתְּנָאָמָר לְאַתָּה בְּעַבְדֵּי כָּךְ
H2005 in his servants H3808 Behold he put no trust H539 and his angels H4397 he charged
H5650 H7760

תְּבַלְּהָ:

with folly

H8417

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:4 (Parallel theme): For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 1:6 (Parallel theme): And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

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