

Job 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

Analysis

Eliphaz's doctrine of retribution - 'they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same' - represents conventional wisdom that sin always produces visible consequences. While containing truth (Galatians 6:7), this theology cannot explain innocent suffering. The friends' failure is not false doctrine but misapplication.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature emphasized the moral order of the universe, but Job challenges this comfortable causality. Eliphaz speaks truth incompletely, failing to account for mystery in God's ways.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When has conventional wisdom failed to explain your circumstances?
2. How do you balance belief in moral order with acceptance of mystery?

Interlinear Text

כָּאֲשֶׁר ר	כִּי אֵינִי	חֹרְשֵׁי	אֲוִן	וְזָרַעַי	עֵמָל
H834	Even as I have seen	they that plow	iniquity	and sow	wickedness
	H7200	H2790	H205	H2232	H5999
!קִצְרָהּ:					
reap					
H7114					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 22:8 (Sin): He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Hosea 8:7 (Parallel theme): For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Job 15:35 (Parallel theme): They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

Jeremiah 4:18 (Evil): Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (Parallel theme): But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.