

Job 41:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out.

Analysis

"Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out." Fire imagery—burning lamps (lapidim, לְפִידִים) and leaping sparks—may describe breath's appearance or represent symbolic power. Either way, it emphasizes destructive capability. Yet God created this, demonstrating sovereignty over even devastating forces. This teaches that God governs powers that could destroy us, using them according to His purposes. Our safety depends on His governance, not the absence of dangerous realities.

Historical Context

Fire represented ultimate destructive force in ancient world. Attributing fire-breathing to Leviathan emphasized overwhelming danger. Yet God controls this creature, teaching that even the most destructive forces remain under divine authority. This assured readers facing threatening circumstances.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over destructive forces provide security amid life's dangers?
2. What "fire-breathing" threats must you trust to divine control rather than attempting self-protection?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּתְמַלֵּט אֲשֶׁר שָׁאַל פָּנָיו
Out of his mouth burning lamps go and sparks of fire leap out
H6310 H3940 H1980 H3590 H784 H4422

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