

Job 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

Analysis

Eliphaz declares God 'setteth up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.' The Hebrew 'rum' (set high/exalt) and 'yesha' (safety/salvation) describe God's pattern of lifting the humble. This is true—God does exalt the humble (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6). But Eliphaz wrongly implies that Job's continued low estate proves he's not truly humble, and that genuine humility would have already brought restoration. This ignores that God's timing differs from human expectations.

Historical Context

The reversal of fortunes—exalting the lowly—is a common theme in ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature and appears throughout Scripture (1 Samuel 2:7-8, Luke 1:52).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith in God's pattern of exalting the humble when exaltation is delayed?
2. What does God's timing in deliverance teach us about the relationship between faith and immediate results?

Interlinear Text

לֵשׁ וּם	שְׁפָלִי יָם	לְמָר וּם	! קִדָּר יָם	שֶׁ גָבוּ
To set up	those that be low	on high	that those which mourn	may be exalted
H7760	H8217	H4791	H6937	H7682
יְשַׁע:				
to safety				
H3468				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:41 (Parallel theme): Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

Psalms 113:7 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

Deuteronomy 33:27 (Parallel theme): The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Luke 6:21 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Ezekiel 17:24 (Parallel theme): And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

1 Peter 5:10 (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

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