

Job 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.

Analysis

Eliphaz praises God who 'disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.' The Hebrew 'parar' (break/frustrate) and 'tushiyah' (enterprise/wisdom) describe God's sovereign disruption of wicked plans. This is true theology (Psalm 33:10), but Eliphaz subtly implies Job must be among the 'crafty' whose plans God frustrated. True application would recognize that God sometimes allows the righteous to suffer while ultimately ensuring the wicked's plans fail.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature frequently celebrated divine disruption of evil plots. Eliphaz uses this true theological principle to make false accusations about Job's character.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith that God will ultimately frustrate evil when it seems to temporarily prosper?
2. What does God's disruption of wicked plans teach us about His sovereignty over history?

Interlinear Text

יֵּפַר	מִחֲשָׁבֹת	עֲרוֹמָם	וְלֹא	תַעֲשֶׂי יָנָה
He disappointeth	the devices	of the crafty	H3808	cannot perform
H6565	H4284	H6175		H6213
! יְדֵיהֶם	תוֹשָׁעָה:			
so that their hands	their enterprise			
H3027	H8454			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 21:11 (Parallel theme): For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform.

Isaiah 8:10 (Parallel theme): Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Proverbs 21:30 (Parallel theme): There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

Psalms 37:17 (Parallel theme): For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

Isaiah 37:36 (Parallel theme): Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Acts 12:11 (Parallel theme): And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Nehemiah 4:15 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

Isaiah 19:3 (Parallel theme): And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

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