

Job 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.

Analysis

Eliphaz describes the wicked's fate: 'They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.' The imagery reverses natural order—darkness during day represents divine judgment and confusion. The Hebrew 'mashash' (grope) suggests blind fumbling. Eliphaz implies Job's confusion and inability to understand his suffering proves he's among the wicked experiencing divine judgment. Yet Scripture shows that even the righteous sometimes walk in darkness (Isaiah 50:10), trusting God despite lack of understanding.

Historical Context

Darkness at noon as divine judgment appears throughout Scripture (Amos 8:9, Matthew 27:45). Eliphaz uses this imagery to characterize Job's state as the result of wickedness rather than divine testing.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when you cannot see God's purposes in your circumstances?
2. What does it mean to walk in darkness while still trusting in the Lord (Isaiah 50:10)?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֹתָם: יְמִשֵּׁשׁ וְכָל־יְלָהּ כִּי־שָׁר יִפְגַּשׁ יְמִתְּחָר
in the daytime They meet with darkness as in the night and grope in the noonday

H3119 H6298 H2822 H3915 H4959 H6672

Additional Cross-References

Job 12:25 (Darkness): They grope in the dark without light, and he maketh them to stagger like a drunken man.

Isaiah 59:10 (Parallel theme): We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.

Deuteronomy 28:29 (Darkness): And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

Proverbs 4:19 (Darkness): The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Amos 8:9 (Darkness): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: