

Job 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Analysis

Eliphaz pronounces a beatitude: 'Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.' The word ashre (אָשָׁרִי, happy/blessed) opens many Psalms (1:1, 32:1), suggesting spiritual wellbeing. The term yakach (יָקַח, correcteth) means to reprove, rebuke, or discipline. Musar (מוֹסֵר, chastening) refers to instruction through discipline. Eliphaz's theology sees all suffering as corrective discipline, assuming Job has sinned and God is teaching him. While discipline is indeed a mark of God's love (Hebrews 12:5-11), not all suffering is disciplinary.

Historical Context

This verse is quoted in Hebrews 12:5 from Proverbs 3:11-12, showing its truth in appropriate contexts. Ancient wisdom emphasized that wise people accept correction. Eliphaz's error isn't in the principle but in the application—he assumes Job's suffering must be correction for sin rather than testing that will vindicate righteousness. The passage illustrates how true doctrine can be misapplied.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we discern when suffering is divine discipline versus testing or spiritual warfare?
2. What does Eliphaz's misapplication of true doctrine teach about the importance of discernment in pastoral care?

Interlinear Text

וְמֹשֶׁךְ רַע אֶל וְלֹא אָשֵׁר יְהִי הַבָּשָׂר
H2009 Behold happy is the man correcteth whom God not thou the chastening
H835 H582 H3198 H433 H4148

לֹא שׁוֹרֵן תִּמְאַסֵּן
H7706 H408 therefore despise

Additional Cross-References

James 1:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Psalms 94:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

James 5:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Jeremiah 31:18 (References God): I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock

unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God.

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