

Job 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.

Analysis

Eliphaz warns, 'For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.' The Hebrew 'ka'as' (wrath/vexation) and 'qin'ah' (envy/jealousy) describe self-destructive emotions. Eliphaz implies Job's angry response to suffering proves his foolishness and will lead to his death. This is victim-blaming—telling the sufferer that his emotional response to injustice is the real problem. Scripture affirms that righteous anger exists (Ephesians 4:26) and lament is legitimate (Psalms).

Historical Context

Wisdom literature frequently warned against destructive emotions, teaching self-control as a mark of the wise. Eliphaz misapplies this teaching to condemn Job's honest expression of grief and confusion.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between righteous anger and sinful wrath in your response to suffering?
2. In what ways does modern Christianity sometimes practice the same victim-blaming that Eliphaz demonstrates?

Interlinear Text

לְאֵיל יִבְרָא כְּעֵש כְּפָתֵה וְפָתֵחַ וְתָאָהָה
the foolish man killeth For wrath the silly one slayeth and envy
H3588 H2026 H3708 H6601 H4191 H7068

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (Parallel theme): Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Job 18:4 (Parallel theme): He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?

Proverbs 12:16 (Judgment): A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.