

Job 5:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

Analysis

Eliphaz promises: 'Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid when destruction cometh.' The 'scourge of the tongue' refers to slander and false accusation—ironically what Eliphaz himself inflicts on Job. The promise of being hidden ('chaba') from verbal attacks reflects God's protection (Psalm 31:20), but Eliphaz's conditional promise denies that God sometimes allows His servants to be slandered for His purposes (Matthew 5:11-12).

Historical Context

The destructive power of slanderous speech was recognized throughout ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature. Eliphaz promises protection from verbal attacks as evidence of divine favor, ignoring that the righteous often suffer slander.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God doesn't hide you from the scourge of the tongue?
2. What purposes might God have in allowing His people to be slandered and falsely accused?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| בֶּשׂ וֹט | לִ שׁוֹן | תִּחְבֶּ א | וְלֹא | תִיָּךְ א |
| from the scourge | of the tongue | Thou shalt be hid | H3808 | neither shalt thou be afraid |
| H7752 | H3956 | H2244 | | H3372 |
| מִשְׁדֵּד | כִּי | יָבֹא: | | |
| of destruction | H3588 | when it cometh | | |
| H7701 | | H935 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:20 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Proverbs 12:18 (Parallel theme): There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Jeremiah 18:18 (Parallel theme): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.