

Job 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

Analysis

Eliphaz continues: 'At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.' To 'laugh' at destruction suggests complete confidence that it cannot harm you. This promise reflects faith in God's sovereign protection (Psalm 91:13), but Eliphaz wrongly makes it conditional on Job repenting from supposed sin. True Reformed theology affirms God's sovereign protection while acknowledging that protection sometimes means preservation through suffering rather than exemption from it.

Historical Context

Wild beasts were a genuine threat to ancient Near Eastern populations, especially during times of social disorder or agricultural failure. Eliphaz's promise of safety from beasts represents comprehensive divine protection from all natural threats.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you understand God's promise of protection when dangers still threaten?
2. What does it mean to laugh at destruction—is this stoic denial or confident faith?

Interlinear Text

לְשׁוֹן	וּלְכָפֹר	תִּשְׂחָק	וּמִחַיַּת	הָאָרֶץ	אֶל
At destruction	and famine	thou shalt laugh	of the beasts	of the earth	H408
H7701	H3720	H7832	H2416	H776	
תִּירָא:					
neither shalt thou be afraid					
H3372					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:25 (Parallel theme): And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

Isaiah 35:9 (Parallel theme): No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

Psalms 91:13 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Isaiah 65:25 (Parallel theme): The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Hosea 2:18 (Parallel theme): And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

