

Job 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.

Analysis

Eliphaz promises: 'Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.' Numerous descendants represented divine blessing (Genesis 15:5). For Job, who has lost all ten children, this promise of future children is particularly painful. Eliphaz implies Job can have a new family if he repents, treating Job's deceased children as replaceable and their deaths as deserved. This reveals profound pastoral insensitivity and theological error.

Historical Context

Numerous offspring was considered the primary sign of divine blessing in ancient Near Eastern culture. Eliphaz's promise of future children follows conventional blessing formulas but cruelly ignores Job's devastating loss.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you offer hope for future blessings without minimizing present losses?

2. What does Eliphaz's promise teach us about the danger of formulaic comfort that ignores individual pain?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָרֶץ כְּעֵד שָׁב
as the grass of the earth

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 112:2 (Parallel theme): His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Psalms 72:16 (Parallel theme): There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

Genesis 15:5 (Parallel theme): And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Deuteronomy 28:4 (Parallel theme): Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Leviticus 26:9 (Parallel theme): For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.