

# Job 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.

## Analysis

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Eliphaz claims personal observation: 'I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.' The Hebrew 'root' suggests temporary stability, while 'suddenly' indicates swift judgment. Eliphaz implies he's watched people like Job—outwardly prosperous but inwardly wicked—receive sudden divine judgment. The phrase 'I cursed' could mean 'I pronounced judgment on' or 'I saw it become cursed.' Either way, Eliphaz categorizes Job among the foolish wicked receiving deserved judgment.

## Historical Context

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Wisdom teachers often appealed to personal observation to validate their theology. Eliphaz's claim to have seen this pattern repeatedly lends apparent authority to his misdiagnosis of Job's situation.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you guard against interpreting your observations through false theological frameworks?
2. What role should personal experience play in shaping theology versus Scripture shaping how we interpret experience?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲנִי	כִּי אֵינִי	אֶל יֵל	מִשָּׁר יֵשׁ	וְאָקֹב	בֵּית הוֹ	פְּתָאִים:
H589	<b>I have seen</b>	<b>the foolish</b>	<b>taking root</b>	<b>I cursed</b>	<b>his habitation</b>	<b>but suddenly</b>
	H7200	H191	H8327	H5344	H5116	H6597

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