

Job 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Analysis

Eliphaz declares 'man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward' (adam le-amal yullad, אָדָם לְעֵמָל יוּלָד). The word amal (עֵמָל) means toil, trouble, or misery—human existence inevitably includes suffering. The comparison to sparks flying upward (bene reshef, בְּנֵי־רֶשֶׁף, literally 'sons of flame') suggests natural inevitability. This observation contains wisdom: we live in a fallen world where suffering is universal. However, Eliphaz uses this truth to minimize Job's specific suffering and suggest he should simply accept it without complaint.

Historical Context

The phrase reflects ancient wisdom about the human condition under the curse (Genesis 3:17-19). Eliphaz correctly identifies that suffering is part of fallen existence but wrongly concludes that Job should therefore not question his particular affliction. The verse appears in Eliphaz's counsel that Job should seek God and accept correction (5:8, 17), assuming Job's suffering is divine discipline.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do we balance accepting that suffering is part of fallen existence with legitimately questioning specific injustices?
2. What is the difference between Eliphaz's fatalism and biblical acceptance of God's sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

פִּי	אֶדָם	לְטֹרֶם	יּוֹלֵד	וּבְנִי	שָׁרָף	כִּי	יָגֵב	יְהוָה	עוֹף:
H3588	Yet man	unto trouble	is born	as	the sparks		upward		fly
	H120	H5999	H3205	H1121	H7565		H1361		H5774

Additional Cross-References

Job 14:1 (Parallel theme): Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Ecclesiastes 2:22 (Parallel theme): For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (Parallel theme): All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Parallel theme): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.