

Job 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?

Analysis

Job asks: 'What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?' The rhetorical questions challenge Eliphaz's advice to hope for restoration. Job's 'strength' (Hebrew 'koach'—power/capacity) is exhausted; his 'end' (Hebrew 'qets'—conclusion/limit) offers nothing to anticipate. Job argues that hope requires some basis—either strength to endure or a desirable outcome ahead. Seeing neither, he questions why he should continue. This is honest wrestling with despair, not sinful denial of God.

Historical Context

Hope in ancient Near Eastern thought required either present resources (strength) or future prospects (favorable end). Job's claim to have neither makes his hopelessness humanly logical, though God will later provide hope beyond human logic.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain hope when you see no basis for it in your circumstances or strength?
2. What does Job's honest questioning teach us about how to wrestle with despair faithfully?

Interlinear Text

מָה	כֹּחִי	כִּי	אֶיֶּה ל	וְמָה	קֵץ יָי
H4100	What is my strength	H3588	that I should hope	H4100	and what is mine end
	H3581		H3176		H7093
כִּי	אֶאֱרֹךְ יָי	נַפְשִׁי:			
H3588	that I should prolong	my life			
	H748	H5315			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:23 (Parallel theme): He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days.

Psalms 39:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

Job 17:1 (Parallel theme): My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves are ready for me.