

Job 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.

Analysis

Job continues: 'What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.' Summer heat dries the streams—exactly when travelers need water most. Similarly, the heat of Job's trials has evaporated his friends' support. The Hebrew 'chamam' (wax warm/hot) and 'tsamath' (vanish/are consumed) describe complete disappearance. This models the failure of human comfort when divine comfort is needed—friends can sit with us, but ultimately only God can sustain through fire (Isaiah 43:2).

Historical Context

The deadly danger of trusting wadis that dried up was well-known to ancient Near Eastern travelers. Caravans could perish when expected water sources proved dry, making Job's metaphor vivid and powerful.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when human comfort fails and only God remains?

2. What does the failure of Job's friends teach us about the limits of human help in suffering?

Interlinear Text

בַּיַּעַת	יִזְרַב וְ	נִצָּחַתוּ	בְּחֶמֶץ	נִדְעָכּוּ
What time	they wax warm	they vanish	when it is hot	they are consumed out
H6256	H2215	H6789	H2527	H1846

מִמְקוֹמָם:

of their place

H4725

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