

Job 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.

Analysis

Job continues: 'The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.' Tema and Sheba were important trade routes in Arabia. These experienced caravans 'looked' (Hebrew 'nabat'—gazed intently) and 'waited' (Hebrew 'qavah'—hoped expectantly) for the streams. Even the experienced are deceived by deceptive wadis. Similarly, Job (no fool about theology) expected genuine comfort from his friends but was disappointed. This warns that even mature believers can be misled by plausible but false counsel.

Historical Context

Tema and Sheba were major Arabian trading centers whose caravans regularly traversed desert routes. Their experience made them knowledgeable about water sources, yet even they could be deceived by deceptive wadis.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against deception even when counsel seems plausible and comes from apparently wise sources?
2. What does the failure of experienced caravans teach us about the deceptiveness of false theology?

Interlinear Text

לָמַדְתִּי	קָוָה	שָׁבָא	הַלִּיכָה	תֵּמָא	אָרַח	וְהָ	בִּטּוֹ
		of Sheba	the companies	of Tema	The troops	looked	
		H7614	H1979	H8485	H734	H5027	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 21:14 (Parallel theme): The inhabitants of the land of Tema brought water to him that was thirsty, they prevented with their bread him that fled.

Genesis 25:15 (Parallel theme): Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:

Jeremiah 25:23 (Parallel theme): Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners,

1 Kings 10:1 (Parallel theme): And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.