

Job 6:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid.

Analysis

Job applies the metaphor: 'For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid.' The friends are 'nothing' (Hebrew 'lo'—not/nothing), just like the dried-up stream. They see Job's calamity and fear it could happen to them, so they distance themselves by blaming Job. The Hebrew 'yare'" (afraid) reveals self-protective motive—if Job's suffering results from his sin, then their own prosperity proves their righteousness and safety. This exposes how fear drives false theology.

Historical Context

In retribution theology, others' suffering threatened one's own sense of security unless the sufferer could be shown to deserve their fate. Job identifies his friends' fear as motivating their accusations.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does fear motivate you to explain away others' suffering as deserved?
2. What does Job's diagnosis of his friends' fear teach us about the psychological roots of bad theology?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יְהִי יְתָם עַתָּה לְאָתָה תְּרִא אֶת־תְּמִימָדָה כִּי־יְהִי יְתָם עַתָּה
H3588 H6258 H1961 H3808 For now ye are nothing ye see my casting down
H7200 H2866

וְתִיראָה
and are afraid
H3372

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:11 (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

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