

Job 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

Analysis

Job compares human existence to 'an appointed time' (warfare) and days like those of a 'hireling' (day laborer). This double metaphor captures life's toilsome, temporary nature under the curse. The military imagery suggests spiritual warfare, while the economic reference highlights human frailty and dependence.

Historical Context

Ancient day laborers lived hand-to-mouth, depending on daily wages. Job uses this imagery to describe life's precariousness, anticipating Paul's teaching that all creation groans under futility (Romans 8:20-22).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing life as warfare change your perspective on daily struggles?
2. What hope exists for those who feel like mere day laborers in God's economy?

Interlinear Text

הָלֹא	צָבֹא	לְאִנּוֹשׁ	עַל	אֶרֶץ
H3808	Is there not an appointed time	to man	H5921	upon earth
	H6635	H582		H776
יָמָיו:	שֶׁכֶּה יֵר	יָמָיו:		
also like the days	of an hireling	also like the days		
H3117	H7916	H3117		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:4 (Parallel theme): LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Isaiah 40:2 (Parallel theme): Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Isaiah 21:16 (Parallel theme): For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail:

Job 5:7 (Parallel theme): Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Ecclesiastes 8:8 (Parallel theme): There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Deuteronomy 15:18 (Parallel theme): It shall not seem hard unto thee, when thou sendest him away free from thee; for he hath been worth a double hired servant to thee, in serving thee six years: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all that thou doest.

Leviticus 25:50 (Parallel theme): And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubile: and the price of his sale shall be according unto the number of years, according to the time of an hired servant shall it be with him.

