

Job 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.

Analysis

Job addresses God directly, shifting from description to confrontation. 'The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more' anticipates his impending death—those who know him will soon observe his absence. The phrase 'thine eyes are upon me, and I am not' (ayin, יְנֵה, 'I am not') employs the Hebrew word for non-existence or nothingness. Job contemplates his mortality while aware of God's scrutinizing gaze.

This creates a theological tension: God watches Job intently, yet Job will soon cease to exist. The verse questions whether divine attention provides meaning or mere surveillance before annihilation. Job hasn't yet grasped the resurrection hope that will emerge later (19:25-27). His perspective remains under the shadow of Sheol, where the dead exist in shadowy half-life without God's presence (Psalm 6:5).

The Reformed doctrine of divine omniscience affirms that God's eyes are indeed upon us (Psalm 33:18), but unlike Job's fearful interpretation, this gaze represents covenant love preserving His elect. Job speaks truth about mortality—we are vapor and shadow—but lacks the fuller revelation of bodily resurrection and eternal life in God's presence. His complaint will be answered not with philosophical argument but with God's sovereign self-revelation in chapters 38-41.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern views of afterlife were generally pessimistic. Sheol (the grave) was conceived as a dark, joyless existence separated from God's active presence. Job's perspective reflects this limited Old Testament understanding, which Christ's resurrection would later revolutionize with certainty of bodily resurrection and eternal life.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the resurrection of Christ transform Job's pessimistic view of death and divine attention?
2. In what ways can God's unwavering gaze be both terrifying (to the guilty) and comforting (to the justified)?
3. What does Job's honest confrontation with mortality teach us about authentic rather than superficial faith?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תַּשְׁרִירָנִי עֵינֵיךְ יְהִי רָאֵינוּ בְּאַתְּפֵנִים
H3808 me shall see The eye of him that hath seen The eye H0 H369
H7789 H5869 H7210 H5869

Additional Cross-References

Job 20:9 (Parallel theme): The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

Psalms 37:36 (Parallel theme): Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

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