

Job 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.

Analysis

Job describes God's overwhelming force: 'For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause.' The verb 'breaketh' (shuph, שׁועַפְת) means to crush or bruise. 'Tempest' (searah, שָׁעָרָה) denotes whirlwind or storm—overwhelming, indiscriminate force. God 'multiplieth' (rabah, רָבָה) Job's wounds 'without cause' (chinnam, חִנָּם), the same word used in 2:3 and 9:17, meaning gratuitously or for nothing.

Job's 'without cause' parallels God's own assessment (2:3) that Satan incited Him against Job 'without cause.' Job speaks truth: his suffering isn't proportionate to any sin. However, 'without cause' doesn't mean 'without purpose'—God has purposes Job cannot yet see. The book distinguishes between punitive suffering (deserved) and redemptive suffering (purposeful but not punitive). Job's wounds aren't punishment but testing.

The language anticipates Christ's suffering 'without cause'—He was wounded for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5). The perfectly righteous One bore stripes He didn't deserve. Job's suffering foreshadows Christ's in being unjust (undeserved) while serving divine purposes. The New Testament reveals that righteous suffering can be redemptive, not merely punitive.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern understanding of divine-human relations assumed suffering indicated divine displeasure for specific sins. Job's insistence on suffering 'without cause' challenges this framework, preparing ground for later revelation about redemptive suffering that characterizes the cross.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between punitive suffering (punishment for sin) and redemptive suffering (purposeful testing)?
2. What does Job's 'without cause' suffering teach about the problem of innocent suffering?
3. In what ways does Christ's innocent suffering transform our understanding of undeserved pain?

Interlinear Text

אָשָׁר בְּשִׁעְרָה הַיְשֹׁוֹגֶן הַמְּרֻבֶּה גַּעַן
H834 me with a tempest H8183 For he breaketh H7779 and multiplieth H7235 my wounds H6482

חַטָּאת
without cause
H2600

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:14 (Parallel theme): He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.

Job 2:3 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 34:6 (Parallel theme): Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression.

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