

Job 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.

Analysis

Now my days are swifter than a post (yw' qallu minni-ratz) —Job laments life's brevity using the image of a 'post' (ratz, רצ), a courier or runner carrying urgent messages. Ancient Near Eastern postal systems used relay runners for rapid communication across empires. The verb 'are swifter' (qalal, קלל) means to be light, swift, or insignificant—Job's days race past like a sprinter, unstoppable and fleeting.

They flee away, they see no good intensifies the tragedy: not only are Job's days brief, but they contain no goodness (tov, טוב). The verb 'flee' (nus, נס) suggests escape or running from danger—his days are deserters abandoning him to misery. This verse echoes Ecclesiastes' meditation on life's transience (Ecclesiastes 6:12, James 4:14) but adds the pain of suffering throughout that brief span.

Historical Context

Ancient postal systems in Persia, Assyria, and Egypt employed relay runners who could cover 100+ miles daily. Job's audience would immediately grasp this metaphor for unstoppable speed. The context is Job's complaint about his inability to contend with God (9:14-24)—his life is too brief and painful to secure justice. This theme of life's brevity pervades wisdom literature, from Moses' prayer (Psalm 90:10) to the Teacher's reflection (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the reality of life's brevity change your priorities and use of time?
2. What does Job's complaint about seeing 'no good' reveal about the weight of unrelieved suffering?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	לֹא	בְּרַח	וְ	לֹא	וְ	יִמְרָא
Now my days	are swifter	מִבְּ	צָרָא	בְּ	רַחֲמָה	לֹא
H3117	H7043	H4480	H7323	H1272	H3808	H7200

טוֹבָה:

no good

H2896

Additional Cross-References

James 4:14 (Parallel theme): Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

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