

James 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Analysis

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. We count those blessed who endure. Job's perseverance and the Lord's compassion illustrate God's purpose. James highlights God's character: very compassionate (polusplagchnos, πολυσπλαγχνός) and merciful.

Reformed teaching on providence emphasizes God's tender mercy even in trials, as Job discovered.

Historical Context

Job's story was beloved among Jews. James appeals to it to show that suffering has divine purpose and compassionate outcome. Early Christians facing trials saw themselves in Job's narrative.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Job's story shape your view of suffering?
2. Where have you seen God's compassion amid trials?
3. How can you encourage fellow sufferers with this verse?

Interlinear Text

ἰδού, μακαρίζομεν τοὺς ὑπομένοντας· τὴν ὑπομονὴν
Behold we count them happy G3588 which endure G3588 of the patience G5281
G2400 G3106 G5278 G5281

Ἰὼβ ἡκούσατε καὶ τὸ τέλος κύριος εἴδετε ὅτι
of Job Ye have heard and G3588 the end of the Lord have seen that G3754
G2492 G191 G2532 G5056 G2962 G1492 G3754

πολύσπλαγχνός ἐστιν ὁ κύριος καὶ οἰκτίρμων
very pitiful is G3588 of the Lord and of tender mercy G3629
G4184 G2076 G2962 G2532 G3629

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:6 (Grace): And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

James 1:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Psalms 86:15 (Grace): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Job 2:10 (Parallel theme): But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

2 Peter 2:9 (References Lord): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Psalms 103:8 (Grace): The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Luke 6:36 (Grace): Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Lamentations 3:22 (References Lord): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

1 Peter 1:13 (Grace): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;