

Job 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

Analysis

Job's response demonstrates genuine, persevering faith. The tearing of his mantle and shaving his head represent proper covenant mourning, not sinful despair. The Hebrew 'shachah' (worshipped) is crucial—in his deepest agony, Job's first response is worship. This vindicates God's assessment (verse 8) and refutes Satan's accusation (verse 11). True faith, wrought by the Spirit, worships God even in incomprehensible suffering, seeing His hand rather than blind fate.

Historical Context

Rending garments and shaving the head were standard Ancient Near Eastern mourning practices, indicating deep grief. Job's prostration in worship shows that even in following cultural mourning customs, his heart remained oriented toward God.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Is worship your first response to devastating news, or must you work your way toward it?
2. What does Job's physical posture teach us about the embodied nature of genuine worship?

Interlinear Text

רָאשׁ	וְ	אֶת	רָאשׁ	וְ	אֶת	מִלְחָמָה	וְ	מִלְחָמָה	וְ	אֶת	רָאשׁ	וְ	אֶת	רָאשׁ	
his head			and rent			his mantle		and shaved			his head				
H7218			H7167			H4598		H1494			H853				
arose	Then	Job	and	rent											
H6965		H347		H853											
and fell down	upon	the ground	and	worshipped											
H5307		H776		H7812											

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:6 (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Genesis 37:29 (Parallel theme): And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

Genesis 37:34 (Parallel theme): And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Ezra 9:3 (Parallel theme): And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

Deuteronomy 9:18 (Parallel theme): And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

