

Job 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.

Analysis

Job discerns hidden divine purpose: 'And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.' The phrase 'hid in thine heart' (tsaphan be-lebabeka, צָפָן בְּלִבָּבְךָ) means concealed in inner counsel. 'I know' (yada, יָדָע) expresses conviction despite lack of full understanding. Job perceives God has purposes beyond his comprehension, hidden intentions that explain but don't justify his suffering.

This verse shows Job's theological sophistication. He doesn't deny divine purpose; he recognizes it while unable to access it. God's heart contains plans Job cannot read—a humbling admission. Job knows God has reasons but cannot discover them. This creates tension: faith trusts hidden purposes while wanting them revealed. Job maintains faith in divine intentionality while questioning divine methods.

The Reformed doctrine of God's secret will versus revealed will addresses this. Some divine purposes remain hidden (Deuteronomy 29:29); others are revealed in Scripture. Job lacked the fuller revelation we possess through Christ. We know what Job could only intuit: God's hidden purposes serve redemptive ends, working all things together for good (Romans 8:28). God's heart is love, even when His hand feels harsh.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom recognized human limitations before divine mysteries. 'Hidden' wisdom or counsel was common theme (Proverbs 25:2). Job's acknowledgment of divine purposes beyond his understanding reflects this wisdom tradition while adding personal urgency—he's living the mystery, not merely contemplating it.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do we trust God's hidden purposes when His revealed actions seem to contradict His revealed character?
2. What does Job's conviction of divine intentionality teach about maintaining faith despite incomprehension?
3. In what ways does Scripture's fuller revelation help us trust God's hidden purposes more than Job could?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	וְכֵן	בְּלִבְּךָ	וְיָדַעְתִּי	כִּי	זֶה אֵת
H428				H3588	H2063
	And these things hast thou hid	in thine heart	I know		
	H6845	H3824	H3045		
עֲמַרְ: H5973					

Additional Cross-References

Job 23:13 (Parallel theme): But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

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