

Job 10:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me.

Analysis

Job describes escalating divine prosecution: 'Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me.' The verb 'renewest' (chaddesh, שָׁׁדֵשׁ) means to make new or refresh—God produces fresh evidence against Job. 'Witnesses' (edim, עֵדִים) refers to legal testimony. God 'increasest' (rabah, רָבָה) His 'indignation' (kaas, קָאֵס, vexation or anger). The phrase 'changes and war' (chalipot vetsaba, חָלִיפּוֹת וְצָבָא) depicts successive waves of troops—military imagery of relentless assault.

Job experiences God's prosecution as never-ending—when one set of afflictions passes, another arrives. Like military campaign with rotating fresh troops, Job faces constant attack while he grows weary. The escalation seems unjust: instead of single trial, Job endures multiplying accusations and renewed assaults. Divine prosecution appears vindictive rather than just.

Christ experienced this escalating prosecution—arrest, ecclesiastical trial, civil trial, Herod's court, Pilate's court, mocking, scourging, crucifixion. Each step multiplied injustice against the innocent. But Christ's submission to unjust escalation accomplished our justification. The renewed witnesses against Christ were false; the renewed witnesses for us are faithful (1 John 2:1).

Historical Context

Ancient warfare involved rotating fresh troops to maintain assault pressure while defenders grew exhausted. Legal proceedings could involve multiple witnesses and successive charges. Job combines military and legal imagery to describe his experience of overwhelming, escalating divine prosecution.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do we endure when trials escalate rather than resolve?
2. What does Job's experience of renewed witnesses teach about suffering's cumulative toll?
3. In what ways did Christ's enduring escalating injustice vindicate God's justice while accomplishing our justification?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשֵׂה	וְתַחַדְתָּ	גַּדְעֹן	עַד יְהוָה	וְתַחַדְתָּ	וְתַחַדְתָּ
Thou renewest	thy witnesses	H5048	against me and increasest	thine indignation	
H2318	H5707		H7235		H3708
upon me	changes	H5973	עַמְלִין	וְצַבָּא	חֲלִיפָה
H5978	H2487	H6635			

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:8 (Witness): And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, which is a witness against me: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face.

Ruth 1:21 (Parallel theme): I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

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