

Job 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?

Analysis

Job questions God's motives: 'Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?' The verb 'oppress' (ashaq, אָשָׁף) means to wrong, exploit, or treat violently. 'Despise' (ma'as, מָאָס) denotes rejection or spurning. Job asks whether God derives satisfaction from mistreating His own creation while favoring the wicked's plans ('shining upon' means to favor or bless).

Job's questions aren't accusations of divine injustice but expressions of baffled faith. He cannot reconcile God's character as loving Creator with his experienced oppression. The phrase 'work of thine hands' recalls Genesis 2:7—humans are God's craftsmanship. Would an artisan destroy his masterwork? Job's logic seems sound, yet his experience contradicts it.

The cross provides the answer Job lacks: God does 'oppress' and 'despise' the work of His hands—not Job, but Christ. On the cross, the Father pours out wrath that sinners deserve upon His beloved Son. This vindicates God's justice while accomplishing redemption. Job's question finds its answer in substitutionary atonement.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern theology struggled with the problem of divine justice when observation contradicted expectation. Job's questions aren't unique to him but represent universal human wrestling with divine providence. His formulation is more personal and intense because he experiences the problem firsthand.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the cross demonstrate God's character when He appears to 'oppress' His own?
2. What does Job's question about God 'shining upon the wicked' teach about the problem of prosperity gospel?
3. In what ways should recognizing ourselves as 'work of God's hands' affect our confidence in His ultimate care?

Interlinear Text

וְהָטוּב	לְךָ	יְיָ	תַעֲשֶׂה	יְיָ
H2896	H0	H3588	H6231	H3588
unto thee that thou shouldest oppress				
תִּמְאֵס	יְגַד	כַּף יָדְךָ	וְעַל	עַצְתְּךָ
H3988	H3018	H3709	H5921	H6098
that thou shouldest despise	the work	of thine hands	upon the counsel	
הוֹפָעֶת:	רָשָׁעִים			
H3313	H7563			
and shine	of the wicked			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 64:8 (Parallel theme): But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Psalms 138:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Job 14:15 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

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