

# 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, עֲשַׂק) means to wrong, exploit, or treat violently. 'Despise' (ma'as, מָאֵס) 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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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בְּנֵךְ תְּבִדֵּל תְּבִדֵּל  
H2896 H0 H3588 unto thee that thou shouldst oppress H3588  
H6231

תְּמִזְאֵס  
that thou shouldst despise  
H3988

עֲמָלֵךְ יְמִינְךְ  
the work of thine hands  
H3018 H3709 H5921  
H6098

רְשָׁעָם  
of the wicked and shine  
H7563 H3313

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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