

Job 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:

Analysis

Zophar promises that if Job repents, he'll 'lift up [his] face without spot' (מִמְּנָ, mum—blemish, defect), be 'stedfast' (מִתְּצִ, yatsaq—poured out, solid, secure), and fearless. This describes the confidence of a clear conscience (1 John 3:21, Hebrews 10:22). The theology isn't false—confession does bring peace (Psalm 32:1-5, 1 John 1:9). The error is the assumption that Job's suffering proves he lacks this innocence. Zophar offers conditional grace: perform repentance, receive blessing. But biblical grace is unconditional (Romans 5:8). Job's later restoration comes not from repentance for imaginary sins but from God's sovereign mercy. The Reformed emphasis on justification by faith alone refutes Zophar's works-righteousness.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature often promised that righteous behavior would lead to prosperity and peace. Zophar operates within this retribution paradigm, which Job's experience will complicate and ultimately transcend.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between the confidence of a clear conscience and false assurance based on works?
2. In what ways do we subtly make God's acceptance conditional on our performance?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּךְ תָּשַׂא
H3588 H227 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot H1961

מִמֶּלֶךְ גְּתַתְּ יְמִינְךָ
H5375 H6440 H3971

תִּרְאָה: וְאֵלֶּךְ
yea thou shalt be stedfast H3808 and shalt not fear H3372

Additional Cross-References

Job 22:26 (Parallel theme): For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.