

Job 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

Analysis

Zophar claims God 'exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth' - a brutal accusation that Job's suffering is merciful compared to deserved punishment. This theology of hyper-retribution (you deserve worse) adds theological cruelty to physical suffering.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom sometimes emphasized that all suffering is less than deserved, but this minimizes grace and magnifies works. Zophar's claim denies Job's actual innocence and God's later vindication.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does emphasizing deserved punishment distort the gospel of grace?
2. When has someone suggested your suffering is less than you deserve?

Interlinear Text

וְיִתְּרָא	לְבָנָה	תַּעֲלֵם	וְתִּתְּ	סָכָמָה	כִּי
And that he would shew	thee the secrets	of wisdom			
H5046	H8587	H2451			
כְּפָלֵם	לְתַתְּ וְשִׁירָה	יְדָעָה	כִּי	וְשִׁירָה	לְבָנָה
that they are double	to that which is	Know	H3588	exacteth	H0
H3718	H8454	H3045		H5382	
אַל וְ	מִתְּוֹתָבָה				
therefore that God	of thee less than thine iniquity				
H433	H5771				

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 9:13 (References God): And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

Lamentations 3:22 (Parallel theme): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Ephesians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Job 9:4 (Parallel theme): He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

Job 15:5 (Sin): For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty.

Job 15:11 (References God): Are the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?

Job 15:8 (References God): Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?

Matthew 13:35 (Parallel theme): That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (References God): The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Daniel 2:28 (References God): But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;