

Job 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

Analysis

'Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?' Job affirms divine sovereignty—God's 'hand' (יָד, yad) 'wrought' (עָשָׂה, astah—made, did) everything. This echoes Genesis 1 and Psalm 104. Job never questions God's sovereignty or creative power; he questions the friends' interpretation of how sovereignty operates. The name 'LORD' (יְהוָה, YHWH) emphasizes covenant faithfulness. Job's point: everyone acknowledges God's creative power, but this doesn't validate the friends' simplistic moral calculus. Divine sovereignty is more complex than reward-and-punishment mechanics. The Reformed emphasis on God's absolute sovereignty includes His freedom to accomplish purposes through means we don't comprehend.

Historical Context

The use of YHWH here is significant—Job isn't questioning whether the covenant God exists or rules, but how His rule operates in a world where the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we affirm God's absolute sovereignty while resisting simplistic explanations of His purposes?
2. What is the relationship between God's creative power and His moral governance?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	לֹא	יָדָע	בְּכָל	זֶה	אֲשֶׁר	יָדָע	יָד
H4310	H3808	Who knoweth	H3605	H428	H3588	not in all these that the hand	H3027
		H3045					
יְהוָה	הָאֵלֹהִים	עָשָׂה	זֶה				
of the LORD		hath wrought	H2063				
H3068		H6213					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:20 (References Lord): That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Acts 19:35 (Parallel theme): And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?

Daniel 9:17 (References Lord): Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

1 Samuel 2:7 (References Lord): The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

Daniel 5:18 (Parallel theme): O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

Job 12:3 (Parallel theme): But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these?

Job 22:18 (Parallel theme): Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

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