

Job 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

Analysis

'He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.' Paradoxically, the very God Job will confront is his 'salvation' (ישׁועָה, yeshuah). Job's assurance: 'an hypocrite' (חָנֵף, chanef—godless, profane) cannot 'come before' (בָּא, yavo) God. Job's integrity gives him confidence to approach God honestly. This is faith's paradox—the God who wounds is the only source of healing. Job's honesty proves he's no hypocrite; the friends' pious platitudes may conceal godlessness. True faith can express complaint; hypocrisy requires maintaining appearances. Hebrews 4:16 invites bold approach to God's throne. Job models confidence rooted in integrity, not perfection.

Historical Context

Ancient piety often emphasized maintaining proper forms and avoiding controversial speech. Job here radically asserts that honesty, even painful honesty, characterizes true faith rather than hypocrisy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does integrity in suffering—honest lament—differ from hypocritical piety?
2. What gives us confidence to approach God when we're angry, confused, or despairing?

Interlinear Text

ל	פָּנָי	ל	א	כִּי	ל	פָּנָי	ל	א	כִּי	ל	יְשֻׁוֹעַת	ה	
H1571	H1931	H0	He also shall be my salvation	H3444	H3588	H3808	before	H6440					
בָּנֵי	בָּנֵי	בָּנֵי	בָּנֵי										
for	an	hypocrite	shall	not	come								
H2611			H935										

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:14 (Parallel theme): The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

Psalms 118:21 (Salvation): I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

Acts 13:47 (Salvation): For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Psalms 27:1 (Salvation): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 118:14 (Salvation): The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

Job 8:13 (Parallel theme): So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:

Job 36:13 (Parallel theme): But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he bindeth them.

Jeremiah 3:23 (Salvation): Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.

Exodus 15:2 (Salvation): The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

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