

Job 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears.

Analysis

Hear diligently my speech (שִׁמְעֵו שָׁמֹעַ מִלְתָּא, shim'u shamo'a millati)—The doubled imperative shim'u shamo'a (hear, truly hear) is emphatic, demanding full attention. Millati (my speech/word) is the Aramaic-influenced term Job uses for his carefully prepared legal argument.

And my declaration with your ears (וְאַחֲרֵי בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם, ve-akhavati be-ozneikhem)—Akhavati (my declaration/explanation) shares a root with khidah (riddle, enigma). Job's 'declaration' will unravel the enigma of his suffering by appealing directly to God (vv. 20-24), bypassing his friends' failed explanations. This parallels Paul's later wrestling with suffering's mystery (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Historical Context

Formal legal proceedings in Israel required attentive witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:4). Job's double appeal ('hear... with your ears') reflects the gravity of judicial testimony. He's not offering casual conversation but sworn testimony that will determine his eternal standing.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What prevents us from truly 'hearing' when others declare their pain and questions to us?
2. How can we create space for others to speak their 'declarations' without rushing to fix or explain?
3. In what areas of your faith journey do you need to move from secondhand explanations to firsthand declaration?

Interlinear Text

בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם: אֶעֱשֶׂת מִלְחָמָה וְשָׁמַעַת שָׁמַעַת
Hear Hear my speech and my declaration with your ears
H8085 H8085 H4405 H262 H241

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