

# Job 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.

## Analysis

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'Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.' Job challenges any accuser: 'Who will plead' (יָרִיב, yariv—contend legally) against him? He's so confident that silence would mean death—'give up the ghost' (עָגַוָּה, egva—expire, perish). This bold challenge precedes Job's courtroom language throughout the book. Job desires legal vindication, not just relief. His concern for justice over mere comfort reveals that humans are more than pleasure-seeking animals—we're moral agents who need vindication. The Reformed doctrine of justification addresses this deep need. Job's cry anticipates Christ who provides legal standing before God.

## Historical Context

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Ancient legal culture required accusers to publicly present evidence. Job's challenge reflects this legal framework, demanding anyone with accusations bring them forward for examination.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. Why is vindication and justice so important to human flourishing, beyond merely ending suffering?
2. How does our longing for legal righteousness point to our need for justification in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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מִי	הוא	יָרִיב	עֹמֵד	כִּי	עֵת
H4310	H1931	<b>Who is he that will plead</b>	H5978	H3588	H6258
		H7378			
	אֶחָד	יֵשׁ	אֶתְּנֶה:		
	<b>with me for now if I hold my tongue</b>	<b>I shall give up the ghost</b>			
	H2790		H1478		

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