

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

'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' (yariv—contend legally) against him? He's so confident that silence would mean death—'give up the ghost' (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

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

עַתָּה אֵין כִּי

H4310

H1931

Who is he that will plead

H7378

עַתָּה אֵין כִּי

H5978

H3588

H6258

אַתָּה יְשַׁׁעַת אֶתְּנִיעַן

with me for now if I hold my tongue I shall give up the ghost

H2790

H1478

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org