

Job 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only do not two things unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee.

Analysis

Job makes two requests of God: 'Only do not two things unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee.' Despite his boldness, Job recognizes the need for specific conditions to stand before God. This shows both audacity (making demands of God) and humility (acknowledging limitations before divine majesty). The dialogue between confidence and fear characterizes authentic faith—approaching God boldly yet reverently.

Historical Context

Theophanies in Scripture typically terrified those who experienced them (Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1). Job's concern about conditions for meeting God reflects biblical realism about human inability to endure unmediated divine presence.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we balance bold confidence in approaching God with reverent fear of His majesty?

2. What 'conditions' do we sometimes demand before we'll fully engage with God?
3. How does Christ's mediation make it possible to approach God without the fear Job expresses?

Interlinear Text

ל א מ פָנִים אֶל שׁ תִים אֶל תְ עַשׂ אֶל עַמְדָ אֶל אֶל אֶל
H389 not two H408 Only do H5978 H227 myself from thee H3808
H8147 H6213 H6440

אָסְתָרָה:

things unto me then will I not hide

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