

Job 13:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.

Analysis

Job's first request: 'Withdraw thine hand far from me.' He asks God to remove the affliction crushing him. The 'hand of God' represents divine power and judgment—Job can't present his case while overwhelmed by suffering. His second request: 'let not thy dread make me afraid.' The Hebrew 'emah' (dread/terror) describes the overwhelming fear of divine presence. Job needs relief from both physical suffering and psychological terror to speak freely.

Historical Context

Divine dread accompanied theophanies throughout Scripture. Moses couldn't look at God's face (Exodus 33:20); Isaiah expected death after seeing the Lord (Isaiah 6:5). Job's request reflects biblical realism about human frailty before divine majesty.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's mediation address Job's twin concerns—bearing God's judgment and removing terror?
2. When has suffering or fear prevented you from freely communicating with God?
3. What does Job's honesty about fear teach us about authentic prayer?

Interlinear Text

כַּפְךָ	יָמְעַל י	הִרָם ק	! אַ מִתֶּךָ	אַל	תִּבְעָתִי:
thine hand	H5921	Withdraw	from me and let not thy dread	H408	make me afraid
H3709		H7368	H367		H1204

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:10 (Parallel theme): Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.

Job 33:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.

Job 9:34 (Parallel theme): Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me: