

Job 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?

Analysis

Job laments God's hiddenness: 'Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?' The hidden face of God represents divine favor's withdrawal—a terrifying experience for the faithful. Job's question 'Why?' expresses his deepest pain: not just physical suffering but the sense that God has become his adversary. This prefigures Christ's cry of dereliction (Matthew 27:46), where the truly innocent One experiences divine abandonment.

Historical Context

God's face represented His favorable presence (Numbers 6:25-26). To have God hide His face signified covenant curse (Deuteronomy 31:17-18). Job experiences what Israel would later suffer in exile—the sense of God's absence and opposition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When have you felt that God was hiding His face from you, and how did you respond?
2. How does Christ's experience of abandonment provide comfort when we feel God's absence?
3. What is the difference between God actually being absent and our feeling that He is absent?

Interlinear Text

לָמָּה	כָּן יְיָ	תַּסְתִּיר	וְתִחַשְׁבֵּנִי	לְאֹיֵב	לִי:
H4100	thou thy face	Wherefore hidest	and holdest	me for thine enemy	H0
	H6440	H5641	H2803	H341	

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:11 (Parallel theme): He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.

Psalms 13:1 (Parallel theme): How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

Lamentations 2:5 (Parallel theme): The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

Isaiah 8:17 (Parallel theme): And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Psalms 44:24 (Parallel theme): Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression?

Psalms 88:14 (Parallel theme): LORD, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me?

Job 33:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy,

Deuteronomy 32:20 (Parallel theme): And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

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