

Job 13:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.

Analysis

'How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?' Job's anguish breaks through: 'How long' (עַד-אַנָּה, ad-anah) introduces lament's classic question. They 'vex' (תּוֹגֵיִן, togyun—grieve, afflict) his 'soul' (נַפְשִׁי, nafshi) and 'break in pieces' (תִּדְאַכְּנֵנִי, tedakkunani—crush, oppress) with 'words' (מִלִּין, millin). Words can wound (Proverbs 12:18, 18:21). The friends' speeches compound Job's suffering. This warns against theological abuse—using truth to bludgeon. James 3:1-12 addresses the tongue's power to destroy. The Reformed emphasis on speaking truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) requires both content and manner reflect Christ.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom recognized words' power to heal or harm (Proverbs 15:1, 16:24). Job here testifies to the crushing weight of his friends' accusations, despite their theological orthodoxy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can our theologically correct words become instruments of crushing oppression?
2. What responsibility do we bear for the emotional and spiritual impact of our speech?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תִּכְתֹּב ב	עַל־י	מָרַר וְ	אֶת־תּוֹרִישׁ נִי
H3588	For thou writest	H5921	bitter things	against me and makest me to possess
	H3789		H4846	H3423
עוֹנֹת וְ	נְעוּרָיִ:			
the iniquities	of my youth			
H5771	H5271			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:7 (Parallel theme): Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.