

# 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

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'How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?' Job's anguish breaks through: 'How long' (עד-אתה, ad-anah) introduces lament's classic question. They 'vex' (תַּזְעִין, togyun—grieve, afflict) his 'soul' (נֶפֶשׁ, nafshi) and 'break in pieces' (תַּדְקַעַנְתִּי, tedakkunani—crush, oppress) with 'words' (לִלּוּ, 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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְתָכַת בְּעָל מִחרָר וְתִזְבְּנֵנִי תְּזַרְעֵנִי  
H3588 For thou writest H5921 bitter things H4846 against me and makest me to possess  
H3789 H3423

נָעָרִים שׁוֹן וְתִזְבְּנֵנִי  
the iniquities of my youth H5271

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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