

Job 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?

Analysis

'Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?' Job questions whether the friends are showing partiality (נִשְׁאָפָנִים, nasa panim—lift up face, show favoritism) toward God or 'contending' (תְּרִיבָה, teribah—striving, arguing) for Him. The irony: they think they're defending God by accusing Job, but they're actually bearing false witness. Deuteronomy 1:17 and Leviticus 19:15 prohibit partiality in judgment. Even defending God doesn't justify falsehood or injustice. God doesn't need our lies to protect His reputation. Romans 3:7-8 addresses this—we shouldn't do evil that good may come. The friends' zeal for God blinds them to their injustice toward Job.

Historical Context

Ancient legal culture prohibited showing partiality even toward the powerful. Job here suggests the friends violate this principle, showing partiality toward God by bearing false witness against Job.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we defend God's character without resorting to falsehood or injustice?
2. In what ways does misguided zeal for God lead us to sin against others?

Interlinear Text

תְּרִיבּוֹן: לֹא לְאָמֵן תְּשַׁאֲלֵנִי
his person Will ye accept for God will ye contend
H6440 H5375 H518 H410 H7378

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 24:23 (Parallel theme): These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

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