

# Job 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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'Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?' Job questions whether the friends are showing partiality (נָשָׂא פָנִים, *nasa panim*—lift up face, show favoritism) toward God or 'contending' (תִּרְיֹבֵן, *teribun*—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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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הַפֶּנִּי יוֹ	תִּשָּׂא וְ	אִם	לֹא לֵ	תִּרְיֹבִין:
his person	Will ye accept	H518	for God	will ye contend
H6440	H5375		H410	H7378

## Additional Cross-References

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