

Job 13:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?

Analysis

Is it good that he should search you out? (חָטָב כִּי־יְחַקֵּר אֶתְכֶם, hatov ki-yakhqor etkhem)—Job turns the tables on his accusers. Yakhqor means 'to examine thoroughly, investigate, search out'—the same word used of God searching hearts (Psalm 139:1). Job warns that the divine scrutiny they invoke against him will expose their own falsehood.

As one man mocketh another, do ye so mock him?—The Hebrew hatalu (mock, deceive) implies treating someone as a fool. Job accuses his friends of attempting to deceive God with pious platitudes and false testimony, as if the Almighty could be manipulated like a human judge accepting bribes of religious rhetoric.

Historical Context

In ancient judicial systems, bearing false witness was a capital offense (Deuteronomy 19:16-21). Job's friends believed they were defending God's honor by insisting on Job's hidden guilt, but Job argues they're committing perjury—offering false testimony to make God's actions appear just.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. In what ways might well-intentioned religious explanations become 'false testimony' about God's character?
2. How do you respond when your theology doesn't match someone else's lived experience of suffering?
3. What does it mean that God searches our hearts more thoroughly than we search others' lives?

Interlinear Text

בְּטֻוב	גַּי	רִיחַק	מְאַתְּכָם	אָמֵן	תַּבְּחַת לֹא
H2896	H3588	that he should search you out	H853	H518	another do ye so mock
		H2713			H2048
וְאַנְשָׁ	תַּבְּחַת לֹא	בְּ:			
H376	another do ye so mock	H0			
		H2048			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:10 (Parallel theme): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Psalms 44:21 (Parallel theme): Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.