

Job 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

Analysis

Job asks 'Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.' This recognition of inherited depravity predates full biblical revelation yet captures the doctrine of original sin. The rhetorical question expects no answer - human effort cannot overcome fundamental corruption.

Historical Context

Ancient purity codes recognized ritual uncleanness, but Job speaks metaphysically about moral inability. This anticipates Christ as the only clean one who can cleanse others (Hebrews 7:26).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognition of inherent uncleanness drive you toward grace?
2. What hope exists if no one can bring clean from unclean?

Interlinear Text

מַיִ

H4310

יְהִי

Who can bring

H5414

טְהֹרֶת

a clean

H2889

מַטָּמָה אֶת

thing out of an unclean

H2931

לֹא

H3808

אָכֵל:

not one

H259

Additional Cross-References

John 3:6 (Parallel theme): That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Job 15:14 (Parallel theme): What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Psalms 51:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Ephesians 2:3 (Parallel theme): Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Romans 5:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

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