

Job 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Analysis

Eliphaz concludes his rhetorical question: 'How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?' The escalation from 'not clean' (v.15) to 'abominable and filthy' intensifies the accusation. The vivid image of drinking iniquity like water suggests sin is so natural to humans that we consume it as readily as water. While Pauline theology affirms human depravity, Eliphaz weaponizes this truth to assume Job's guilt without evidence.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern texts often used drink metaphors for moral consumption (Proverbs 4:17). Eliphaz's extreme language—'abominable,' 'filthy'—reflects disgust, suggesting he views Job not just as wrong but as morally repulsive.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Reformed understanding of total depravity differ from viewing humans as worthless or disgusting?

2. What prevents doctrine of sin from becoming dehumanizing rather than humbling?
3. How does God's love for sinners balance the truth of our moral corruption?

Interlinear Text

ק	א	כִּי	נִתְעַב	ב	וְנֶאֱלָח	אִישׁ	שֶׁתֵּה
H637		H3588					
How much more abominable				and filthy	is man	which drinketh	
H8581				H444	H376	H8354	

עֲלֵה:	כִּמְ	יֵם
like water	iniquity	
H4325	H5766	

Additional Cross-References

Job 34:7 (Parallel theme): What man is like Job, who drinketh up scorning like water?

Proverbs 19:28 (Sin): An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

Titus 3:3 (Parallel theme): For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.