

Job 15:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will shew thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare;

Analysis

I will shew thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare—Eliphaz shifts to prophetic authority language: achavvecha (אֶחָדָךְ, 'I will show you') and asapperah (אֶסְפָּרָה, 'I will declare'). The phrase chaziti (חָזִיתִי, 'I have seen') often introduces prophetic vision (Isaiah 6:1, Daniel 8:2). Eliphaz claims experiential authority ('that which I have seen') while preparing to quote tradition (v. 18).

This rhetorical move bridges personal experience and collective wisdom, making Eliphaz's coming argument seem both empirically verified and traditionally validated. Yet the content will be the standard retribution doctrine that Job's experience contradicts. The confident tone—'hear me'—demands submission to what follows. Authority claims like this deserve scrutiny, especially when they silence victims' testimony.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom teachers regularly appealed to both personal observation and ancestral tradition for authority. Eliphaz skillfully combines both appeals, making his coming assault on Job seem unassailable. The book exposes this as rhetorical manipulation.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When have you heard someone demand a hearing based on claimed authority rather than the strength of their argument?
2. How do you discern between legitimate prophetic insight and weaponized religious authority?
3. What makes you worthy to be heard when suffering people challenge traditional explanations?

Interlinear Text

אֶפְרַיִם	שָׁמֹעַ	לִי	אֵלֶּה	מֵהֶם	בְּזִיהַרְתִּי	אֶפְרַיִם
I will shew	thee hear	H0	H2088	me and that which I have seen	H2372	I will declare
H2331	H8085					H5608

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