

Job 15:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.

Analysis

Eliphaz accuses: 'Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.' The verb *parar* (פָּרַר, castest off) means to break, frustrate, or annul. *Yir'ah* (יִרְאָה, fear) denotes reverent awe of God. *Gara* (גָּרַע, restrainest) means to diminish or detract from. *Siach* (שִׁיחַ, prayer) refers to meditation or communion with God. Eliphaz accuses Job of undermining piety by questioning God. This charge is serious but false—Job maintains reverence while protesting. Eliphaz confuses honest lament with rebellion, unable to distinguish between faith that questions and unbelief that rejects.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern piety emphasized submission to divine will without questioning. Eliphaz represents conventional religion that fears any challenge to God as impious. However, biblical faith allows lament and protest (Psalms, Habakkuk). Eliphaz's accusation reflects shallow understanding of relationship with God—genuine intimacy permits honest expression of pain and confusion without abandoning reverence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between honest lament (which Job models) and impious rebellion (which Eliphaz wrongly accuses)?
2. What does Eliphaz's accusation teach about legalistic religion that cannot tolerate authentic relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

אֶף	אָתָּה	תִּפְּרֹ	יִרְאַ	וְתִגְבֹּ	שֶׁיְיָ	לִפְנֵי
H637	H859	Yea thou castest off	fear	and restrainest	prayer	before
		H6565	H3374	H1639	H7881	H6440

אֱלֹהִים
God
H410

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:31 (References God): Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.