

Job 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!

Analysis

Job's longing: 'O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!' This desire for mediation echoes 9:33 and anticipates Christ's high priestly role. Job recognizes the need for someone who can bridge the divine-human gap.

Historical Context

Ancient legal systems provided advocates for those unable to defend themselves. Job's wish for such mediation before God anticipates 1 John 2:1 (Jesus as advocate).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ fulfill Job's longing for an advocate?

2. What comfort comes from having someone who pleads your case before God?

Interlinear Text

וְיִזְכֶּה	לְגַבֵּר	עִם	אֵל וְהֵ	וְכִן
O that one might plead	for a man	H5973	with God	pleadeth for his neighbour
H3198	H1397		H433	H1121

לְרַעְהוֹ:	אֶדָּם
H7453	as a man
	H120

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 6:10 (Parallel theme): That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

Isaiah 45:9 (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Romans 9:20 (References God): Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Job 13:3 (References God): Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.

Job 13:22 (Parallel theme): Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me.

Job 31:35 (Parallel theme): Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.