

Job 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, which is a witness against me: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face.

Analysis

And thou hast filled me with wrinkles (וְתַּקְמִתִּי, vatikmteni)—The rare verb עֲמַת (qamat) means 'to seize, shrivel, make wrinkled.' Job addresses God directly: You have shriveled me. His emaciation becomes **a witness against me** (לֵעֵד, le'ed)—legal terminology. His physical collapse testifies in the cosmic courtroom.

And my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face (וַיָּקָם בִּי כַּחֲשִׁי) vayaqam bi khachashi)—The noun כַּחֲשִׁי (kachash) means 'leanness, emaciation, lying.' Some translations read 'my leanness' as 'my gauntness'; others interpret it as 'my liar'—his wasted body falsely 'testifies' that he's guilty. Job's suffering becomes his accuser, though he's innocent. This anticipates Christ, whose innocent suffering bore false witness before tribunals.

Historical Context

In ancient Israelite legal proceedings, physical evidence served as testimony. Job uses forensic language: his body is a 'witness' (לֵעֵד, ed) in the divine lawsuit. The Mosaic law required two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15); Job ironically has multiple 'witnesses' against him—all circumstantial, none true.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does physical suffering sometimes become a 'false witness' suggesting guilt where there is none?
2. In what ways did Jesus experience His own body 'bearing witness' against Him before accusers?
3. When has circumstantial evidence in your life suggested God's judgment, though you knew your innocence?

Interlinear Text

תְּלַקְמַתִּנִי	לָעֵד	הַלְּבָדִים	בְּעֵד
And thou hast filled me with wrinkles	which is a witness	H1961	rising up
H7059	H5707	H6965	H0
בְּעֵד	בְּפָנָי	בְּעֵד	בְּעֵד
against me and my leanness	to my face	in me beareth witness	
H3585	H6440	H6030	

Additional Cross-References

Job 10:17 (Witness): Thou renewest thy witnesses against me, and increasest thine indignation upon me; changes and war are against me.

Job 19:20 (Parallel theme): My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

Ruth 1:21 (Parallel theme): I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

