

Job 17:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you.

Analysis

Job challenges his friends to respond with wisdom: 'But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you.' This devastating assessment of his counselors declares their collective failure. The call to 'return' suggests they need to rethink their positions. Job's inability to 'find one wise man' among them indicts their theology. True wisdom requires humility to admit mystery; the friends' certainty reveals foolishness. God later vindicates this assessment (42:7).

Historical Context

Wisdom was highly valued in ancient Near Eastern culture, with wise counselors holding honored positions. Job's declaration that none of his friends qualifies as wise devastates their social standing and theological authority. His assessment proves prophetically accurate.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes true wisdom from confident but incorrect counsel?
2. How do we respond when our theological frameworks fail to account for reality?
3. What role does humility play in genuine wisdom versus the friends' false certainty?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּךָ מִשְׁבָּתוֹ תָּבִא אַתָּה בְּאַתָּה יְלָא

But as for you all do ye return and come now

H199 H3605 H7725

H935

H4994

H3808

אֲמֵץ אַתָּה בְּכָךְ מְכֹן:

for I cannot find one wise

H4672 H0 H2450

Additional Cross-References

Job 6:29 (Parallel theme): Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it.

Job 42:7 (Parallel theme): And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.

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