

Job 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

Analysis

'And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?' The double question emphasizes hopelessness: 'where is my hope?' (אֵיפֹה תִקְוָתִי, ayyeh efo tiqvati) and 'who shall see it?' (מִי יִשׁוּרֶנָּה, mi yeshurenah). This is faith's darkest night—not denying hope's existence but unable to locate it. The Reformed tradition acknowledges such dark nights (St. John of the Cross, Puritan writings on desertion). Job doesn't manufacture false hope but cries from genuine hopelessness. God meets us in this honesty. Interestingly, Job eventually receives answer and restoration, but not through pretending hope when feeling hopeless. Faith sometimes means crying 'where is hope?' to God rather than manufacturing optimism. Truth-telling precedes hope's restoration.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom generally promised hope to the righteous. Job here subverts this, acknowledging that sometimes even the righteous experience seasons where hope seems completely absent, a reality rarely admitted in wisdom literature.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How is crying 'where is hope?' to God different from abandoning faith?
2. What role does honest hopelessness play in faith's journey?

Interlinear Text

אֵיךְ	אֵיךְ	תִּקְוָתִי	תִּקְוָתִי	מִי	יִשְׁכְּנָה:
H346	And where is now	as for my hope	as for my hope	H4310	who shall see
	H645	H8615	H8615		H7789

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Job 19:10 (Hope): He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.