

Job 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Upright men shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.

Analysis

Upright men shall be astonished at this (יְשָׁרִים יִשְׁמוּ עַל־זֹאת, yesharim yashommu al-zot)—Yesharim (upright, righteous) are the truly godly, contrasted with Job's judgmental friends. Yashommu (shall be appalled/astonished/desolate) expresses horrified shock. Job prophesies that genuinely righteous observers will be appalled at his undeserved suffering—and perhaps at God's apparent injustice.

And the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite (וְנָקִי עַל־חֲנֹף יִתְעַרֵּר, ve-naqi al-khanef yit'orer)—Naqi (innocent/clean) will yit'orer (rouse himself, be stirred to action) against the khanef (hypocrite/godless/profane). Job inverts his friends' categories: they are the hypocrites, not him. True righteousness awakens moral outrage against false piety.

Historical Context

Job anticipates vindication by future witnesses—a theme reaching fulfillment in 42:7-9 when God vindicates Job and condemns his friends. This passage also prophetically points to Christ, the ultimate Innocent One who suffered unjustly and whose righteousness exposes all religious hypocrisy (Matthew 23).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How should genuinely 'upright' people respond when they witness undeserved suffering?
2. What hypocrisies in religious communities should provoke the innocent to 'stir themselves up'?
3. In what ways does Job's vindication foreshadow Christ's suffering and ultimate vindication?

Interlinear Text

יָשׁוּמוּ	יָשָׁרִים	עַל	זֶה	אֵת	יְבֹקֵי	עַל
men shall be astonished	Upright	H5921	H2063		at this and the innocent	H5921
H8074	H3477				H5355	
חָגַף	יִתְעַבֵּר:					
himself against the hypocrite	shall stir up					
H2611	H5782					

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org