

Job 19:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.

Analysis

He hath also kindled his wrath against me (וַיָּרַא עָלִי אֹפֹן, wayyachar 'alay 'appo)—The verb חָרַה (charah, 'to burn, be kindled') with אֹף ('ap, 'nose/anger') creates the vivid image of nostrils flaring with rage. Job perceives God's anger as fire directed specifically at him—**against me** ('alay) appears twice for emphasis.

And he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies (וַיַּחַשֵּׁבנִי לוֹ כָּעֵד) —The verb חָשַׁב (chashav, 'to reckon, account') is the same used of God crediting Abraham's faith as righteousness (Genesis 15:6). Tragically, Job feels God has reversed the accounting—reckoning him as צָר (tsar, 'adversary/enemy'). The irony is profound: Satan is God's adversary opposing Job, yet Job perceives himself as God's adversary.

Historical Context

The concept of divine wrath (ap) permeates Old Testament theology, usually directed at covenant unfaithfulness. Job's horror stems from experiencing this wrath while innocent—a theological crisis resolved only through Christ, who bore God's wrath for the innocent (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile Job's perception of God's kindled wrath with the prologue's revelation that God defended Job (1:8)?
2. When have you felt God was treating you as an enemy rather than a beloved child?
3. How does Christ's cry of dereliction ('Why have you forsaken me?') validate Job's honest expression of feeling abandoned?

Interlinear Text

לְזַרְעָלָיו אֵת שָׁבֵן נִיְמָנָה וְעַל־יְהִי חָרָב
He hath also kindled his wrath against me and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies

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בְּצָרְיוֹן:

me unto him as one of his enemies

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Additional Cross-References

Job 13:24 (Parallel theme): Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy?

Job 16:9 (Judgment): He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

Job 33:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy,