

Job 19:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

Analysis

'Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?' Job accuses friends of 'persecuting' (תִּרְדֹּפֵנִי, tirdefuni—pursuing, chasing) him 'as God' (לְמוֹ-אֱלֹהִים, kemo-El) does, insatiable with his 'flesh' (בְּבָשָׁרִי, mibsari). This shocking accusation: they imitate God's apparent persecution. Proverbs 17:5 warns 'whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker.' By persecuting Job, they join what they perceive as God's judgment. But God isn't judging Job; they've misread the situation. This warns against joining perceived divine opposition to someone. We might be opposing God's own. The friends assumed their harshness partnered with God's justice; actually they opposed God's righteous servant.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples feared divine persecution and saw themselves as potential executors of divine will. Job accuses his friends of presuming to execute what they perceive as God's judgment against him.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we avoid presuming to execute what we perceive as God's judgment on others?
2. What checks prevent us from joining what we think is God's opposition to someone?

Interlinear Text

לָמָּה	תִּרְדֹּף נִי	כְמוֹ	אֵל	וּמִבֶּשֶׁר י	לֹא
H4100	Why do ye persecute	H3644	me as God	with my flesh	H3808
	H7291		H410	H1320	
תִּשְׂבָּעוּ:					
and are not satisfied					
H7646					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:26 (Parallel theme): For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.