

Job 19:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

Analysis

'But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?' Job tells friends what they should say: 'Why persecute him?' (מְהִנְרִידְךָ, mah-nirdof), since 'the root of the matter' (שורש דבר, shoresh davar) is in him (Job). This is controversial translation—some render 'in him' as 'in me.' Either way, Job calls for self-examination. If 'in him,' he claims integrity as the root/core reality. If 'in me,' he asks why they persecute when the real issue is their own judgment. Either reading condemns the friends' persecution. The Reformed emphasis on self-examination before judging others (Matthew 7:3-5, Galatians 6:1) validates Job's point. Persecution requires certainty the friends lack.

Historical Context

The root metaphor suggests core reality or fundamental issue. Job either claims his integrity is the fundamental reality, or questions why they attack him when the matter really concerns their own hearts.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does self-examination prevent us from persecuting others?
2. What certainty is required before we can righteously confront someone?

Interlinear Text

כ	ת אמרו	מה	גַּדְעֹן	לו	יש ר' ש
H3588	But ye should say	H4100	Why persecute	H0	we him seeing the root
	H559		H7291		H8328
ר ב ז	נִמְצָא	בִּין			
of the matter	is found	H0			
H1697	H4672				

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:22 (Parallel theme): Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?

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