

Job 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment.

Analysis

Job warns his accusers: 'But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?' Job challenges his friends to examine themselves—they persecute him while 'the root of the matter' (essence of righteousness/faith) exists in him. This warns that their accusations will bring judgment on themselves. Job prophetically anticipates God's later rebuke of his friends (42:7-8).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom valued finding 'the root of the matter'—the essential truth beneath appearances. Job claims his friends miss this root while fixating on surface interpretation of his suffering. God later vindicates this claim by rebuking the friends.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between surface appearances and the root of spiritual matters?
2. What does Job's warning teach about the danger of falsely accusing others?
3. How should we respond when confronted with our own theological errors that have harmed others?

Interlinear Text

ג וְרוּ Be ye afraid H1481	לְךָ מִן H0	מִפְּנֵי of H6440	חֶרֶב of the sword H2719	כִּי H3588	חֵמָה for wrath H2534
בְּאוֹת bringeth the punishments H5771	חֶרֶב of the sword H2719	לִפְנֵי H4616	תֵּדַע וְ that ye may know H3045		
שֹׁדִים there is a judgment H1779					

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Judgment): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (Judgment): Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.