

Job 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.

Analysis

'These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.' Job counts 'ten times' (זֶה עֶשֶׂר פְּעֻמִּים, zeh eser pe'amim) they've 'reproached' (תְּקִלְמָנִי, takhlimuni—humiliated, insulted) him. They 'make strange' (תַּהֲהִרּוּ, tahhiru—make hard, be strange/cruel) without shame (לֹא־תִּתְבָּשֵׂשׁ, lo-tevoshu). Job protests the friends' relentless assault. They feel no shame for their cruelty, convinced their orthodoxy justifies any harshness. This warns against theological certainty overriding basic compassion. Proverbs 27:6 says 'faithful are the wounds of a friend,' but the friends' wounds aren't faithful—they're cruel. The Reformed pastoral tradition insists truth must be spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15), never weaponized.

Historical Context

The number ten often indicates completeness or many times. Job emphasizes the relentless, shameless nature of his friends' attacks, which violate ancient friendship obligations.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does theological certainty sometimes override basic human decency?
2. What accountability prevents us from justifying cruelty through doctrinal correctness?

Interlinear Text

תִּבְשֹׂא לֹא תִּכְלִימָנוּ פְּעָמִים וְנִשְׁרֵזְנִי
H2088 These ten times have ye reproached H3808 me ye are not ashamed
H6235 H6471 H3637 H954

לִי :7
תְּהִפְרוּ that ye make yourselves strange H0
H1970

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 31:7 (Parallel theme): And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

Psalms 69:8 (Parallel theme): I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

Job 19:17 (Parallel theme): My breath is strange to my wife, though I intreated for the children's sake of mine own body.

Nehemiah 4:12 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

Daniel 1:20 (Parallel theme): And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.