

Job 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach:

Analysis

If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me (אִם־אֶמְגַּדִּילוּ עָלַי תִּגְדִּילוּ, im-'omnam 'alay tagdilu)—The verb גָּדַל (gadal, 'to magnify/make great') in the Hiphil stem means 'to exalt oneself.' Job accuses his friends of using his suffering to elevate their own righteousness—a devastating critique of their motives.

And plead against me my reproach (וְתוֹכִיחוּ עָלַי חֶרְפָּתִי, wetokhichu 'alay cherpai)—The verb יָכַח (yakach) means 'to prove, argue, reprove.' His friends treat his חֶרְפָּה (cherpah, 'disgrace/shame') as forensic evidence of guilt. Job exposes the cruelty of their 'comfort'—they're weaponizing his pain to vindicate their theology.

Historical Context

In honor-shame cultures of the ancient Near East, reproach (cherpah) meant social death. Job's friends add theological condemnation to his social humiliation, making themselves judges rather than advocates—the opposite of Christ, who bore our reproach (Hebrews 13:13).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can suffering become an opportunity for others to 'magnify themselves' through spiritual superiority?
2. In what ways do Christians sometimes use others' pain to validate their own theological systems?
3. How does Jesus's bearing of our reproach model the opposite approach to Job's friends?

Interlinear Text

אִם	אָ מְנִים	עַל י	תִּגְדָּ יִלּוּ	וְתוֹכְ יִחוּ	עַל י
H518	If indeed	H5921	ye will magnify	yourselves against me and plead	H5921
	H551		H1431	H3198	
חֲרָפְתִּי:					
against me my reproach					
H2781					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:16 (Parallel theme): For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

Psalms 55:12 (Parallel theme): For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.