

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־אָמַתְּךָם עַלְיִתְּךְיְלִוּ, 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 (וְתוֹקִיחוּ עַלְיִתְּרָפְתִי, wetokhichu 'alay cherpati)—The verb יִכְחַ (yakach) means 'to prove, argue, reprove.' His friends treat his **תְּרָפָה** (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

אֵם מִנְמָר אַל יְמִינָה עַל תְּגִיד יְלִי יְתַזֵּךְ יְחִי עַל

H518 **If indeed** H5921 **ye will magnify** H1431 **yourselv^{es} against me and plead** H5921

H551 H3198

תְּרַפְּתִי

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.