

Job 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.

Analysis

'Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.' Job's complaint: he cries 'wrong' (חָמָס, *chamas*—violence), but receives no hearing (לֹא אֶנְהָא, *lo e'aneh*); he cries aloud (אֶשָּׂא, *ashava*) but gets no 'judgment' (עֵין מִשְׁפָּט, *eyn mishpat*). This echoes Habakkuk 1:2—'why dost thou show me iniquity and cause me to behold grievance?' Job accuses God of judicial failure—not hearing cries for justice. This is scandalous speech, yet Scripture preserves it. The Reformed tradition distinguishes between expressing feeling (legitimate) and theological declaration (requiring accuracy). Job feels unheard; eventually God answers. But God doesn't condemn Job for expressing this feeling. Faith can cry 'God doesn't hear!' to God.

Historical Context

Ancient legal culture required judges to hear cases and render judgment. Job uses legal language to accuse God of failing basic judicial obligations, a shocking claim in ancient context.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we process seasons when prayers seem unheard and justice delayed?
2. What is the relationship between how we feel and what we believe about God?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	רָאָה	וְלֹא	אֶשְׁמָע	אֲשׁוּעַ	אֵין	
H2005	Behold I cry out	of wrong	H3808	but I am not heard	I cry aloud	H369
	H6817	H2555		H6030	H7768	

חֵשֶׁפֶּט:

but there is no judgment

H4941

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:8 (Parallel theme): Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.

Job 30:20 (Parallel theme): I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.

Job 34:5 (Judgment): For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment.

Job 21:27 (Parallel theme): Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices which ye wrongfully imagine against me.

Job 40:8 (Judgment): Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?