

Job 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Analysis

Job's wife urges him to 'curse God and die.' The verb barek normally means 'to bless' but here is a euphemism for cursing—ancient scribes avoided writing 'curse God.' Her counsel is Satan's desired outcome. Job's response calls her words foolish (nevalah, נְבָלָה), denoting moral senselessness. His rhetorical question 'Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?' establishes profound theology: faith must accept God's sovereignty in adversity as well as prosperity.

Historical Context

Job's wife lost ten children yet receives only one verse. Her counsel to 'curse God and die' may reflect mercy—why prolong suffering?—yet it opposes faith. Job's response 'In all this did not Job sin with his lips' contrasts his later speeches where he comes close to charging God with injustice, showing that extended suffering tests even the righteous.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Job's commitment to receive both good and evil from God's hand challenge the prosperity gospel?
2. In what ways might we subtly urge suffering believers to abandon faith rather than persevere?

Interlinear Text

וְתִּשְׁמַחְתָּ בְּ	מִצְׁמָצֵעַ	לְקַחְתָּ	אֲשֶׁת	וְ	לֹא	וְתִּשְׁמַחְתָּ	אַחֲרָךְ
Then said	H0	his wife	H5750	unto him	Dost thou still retain	thine integrity	
H559		H802			H2388		H8538

בְּרֵכֶת אֱלֹהִים בְּרֵךְ	וְ	יְמִתְּהַ	אֱלֹהִים בְּרֵךְ
curse	God	and die	

| H1288 | H430 | H4191 | |

Additional Cross-References

Job 2:5 (Curse): But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:3 (References God): And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Genesis 3:6 (Parallel theme): And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Malachi 3:14 (References God): Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Job 1:11 (Curse): But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Genesis 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

2 Kings 6:33 (Parallel theme): And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?

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