

# Job 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations.

## Analysis

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Job requests consolations (תְּחֻמּוֹתֶךָם, tanchumotekem), exposing the failure of his friends' comfort. The verb nasa (נִשְׁאָה, "suffer") means to bear or carry—Job asks them to simply bear with him, to endure his speech. True comfort requires patient listening, not premature answers. The Reformed tradition recognizes that the ministry of presence often supersedes the ministry of words. Job's request echoes the New Testament call to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15) before rushing to theological explanation. The friends' failure to provide genuine comfort foreshadows the need for a mediator who truly understands suffering—ultimately fulfilled in Christ, our sympathetic high priest (Hebrews 4:15).

## Historical Context

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The concept of tanchumim (consolations) was central to Jewish mourning practices. The book's opening showed Job's friends initially sitting silently with him for seven days—a proper expression of comfort. But their speeches abandoned consolation for condemnation. Ancient wisdom recognized that suffering required companionship more than explanation, making the friends' failure all the more tragic.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's request for sufferance rather than solutions challenge our impulse to immediately "fix" others' problems?
2. What is the relationship between theological truth and pastoral sensitivity in ministering to the suffering?
3. How does Christ fulfill the role of true comforter that Job's friends failed to provide?

## Interlinear Text

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תְּנַחַ וְמִתְּנִיכְמָן: זֶאת וַתָּהַי מִלְּתָא שׁ מַעַן שׁ מַעַן  
Hear      Hear      my speech      H1961      H2063      and let this be your consolations  
H8085      H8085      H4405      H8575

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 2:1** (Parallel theme): Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

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