

Job 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

Analysis

Job asks rhetorically: 'Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.' The verb lamad (למד, teach) means to instruct or train. Da'at (דעת, knowledge) refers to knowledge or understanding. Job's question is profound: who can instruct infinite wisdom? The phrase 'he judgeth those that are high' (hu ramim yishpot, הוא רמים ישפט) emphasizes God's authority over the exalted and powerful. Job refutes his friends' presumption to explain God's ways—if God needs no instruction, neither should humans presume to fully understand His judgments.

Historical Context

The question echoes Isaiah 40:13-14 ('Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?') and anticipates Paul's quotation in Romans 11:34. Ancient wisdom recognized divine transcendence. Job's question challenges his friends' certainty about divine purposes—if God judges the exalted without human counsel, humans should not presume to explain all His actions.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God needs no instruction humble our theological certainty?
2. What is the difference between seeking to understand God's ways and presuming we can fully explain them?

Interlinear Text

לֵאלֹהִים	יְלַמֵּד	דָּעַת	אֵלֵּהּ	הַגְּבוֹרִים
God	Shall any teach	knowledge	H1931	those that are high
H410	H3925	H1847		H7311

וְרֹאשׁוֹ
seeing he judgeth
H8199

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:34 (Parallel theme): For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

1 Corinthians 2:16 (Parallel theme): For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.