

Job 21:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done?

Analysis

None confront the wicked: 'Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him what he hath done?' Job observes that the wicked often face no earthly accountability—none confront them ('declare to his face') or ensure recompense. This describes the powerful wicked who escape human justice. Yet Job's question anticipates divine justice—if humans don't repay, God will. Final accountability exists even when temporal accountability fails.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern justice depended on witnesses willing to confront wrongdoers. The powerful often escaped accountability because none dared confront them. Job recognizes this failure of human justice while trusting divine justice won't similarly fail.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we pursue earthly justice while trusting divine justice for what escapes human accountability?
2. What responsibility do we have to 'declare to the face' of wrongdoers when able?
3. How does final judgment comfort when earthly justice fails?

Interlinear Text

מִי	יַגְדֵּל	עַל	פָּנָי	בְּדַרְכֵּךְ	וְיַהְוֶא	בְּשָׁנָה
H4310	Who shall declare	H5921	to his face	H6440	his way	H1931
	H5046		H1870			H6213

וְנַהֲרֵת	בְּשִׁלְמָה	בְּלֹא
H4310	and who shall repay	H0

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:10 (Parallel theme): And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

Galatians 2:11 (Parallel theme): But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.