

Job 22:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

Analysis

Eliphaz promises: 'When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.' The verb shaphel (שָׁפֵל, cast down) means to be brought low or humbled. Gawah (גָּוֹהֵה, lifting up) suggests exaltation or pride—a difficult phrase variously translated. Shach eynayim (שָׁחַח עַיִּינָיו, humble person) literally means 'lowly of eyes.' Eliphaz promises that if Job repents, God will restore and save him. The promise is true in appropriate contexts (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6) but wrongly assumes Job needs such repentance.

Historical Context

The promise that God saves the humble appears throughout Scripture. Eliphaz speaks truth but misapplies it by assuming Job's pride caused his suffering. The pattern illustrates a recurring problem in the dialogues: the friends articulate orthodox theology but draw false conclusions about Job's situation. Truth wrongly applied becomes functional falsehood.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we avoid using true biblical promises to manipulate or pressure those who are suffering?
2. What is the difference between encouraging genuine humility and demanding false confession?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הַ שְׁפִילָה	וְתִּאְמֹר	בְּנֵי הָ	בְּנֵי הַ
H3588	When men are cast down	then thou shalt say	There is lifting up	the humble
	H8213	H559	H1466	H7807
מִן	עַיְן	וַיַּשְׁעֵ		
person	and he shall save			
H5869	H3467			

Additional Cross-References

James 4:6 (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Matthew 23:12 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.