

Job 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?

Analysis

Eliphaz asks rhetorically: "Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him, that thou makest thy ways perfect?" The noun chephets (ץָהַת, "pleasure") means delight or desire. The verb batsa (בָּצָה, "gain") implies profit or advantage. Eliphaz argues God gains nothing from human righteousness since He lacks nothing. While this truth establishes God's self-sufficiency, Eliphaz misapplies it, suggesting God is therefore indifferent to righteousness. Reformed theology affirms God's aseity (self-existence) while maintaining that God freely chooses to delight in righteousness. Proverbs 11:20 declares "such as are upright in their way are his delight." The resolution: God doesn't need our obedience, but He desires it because it reflects His character and accomplishes His purposes. Christ's incarnation reveals this: God needed nothing from us, yet delighted in redeeming us for His glory and our good.

Historical Context

Pagan religions portrayed gods needing human service and offerings. Eliphaz correctly distinguishes Yahweh from such dependent deities. However, covenant theology reveals God freely choosing relationship—not from need but from love and sovereign purpose. The distinction between divine necessity and divine desire resolves the tension between God's self-sufficiency and His genuine pleasure in righteousness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do we reconcile God needing nothing from us with Scripture's claims that He delights in righteousness?
2. What does God's delight in our obedience reveal about His character and purposes?
3. How does understanding God's self-sufficient yet relational nature transform our motivation for obedience?

Interlinear Text

בַּקְשֵׁר	לְשָׁלֵן	כִּי	תִּצְאֵךְ	אָמֵן	כִּי	צָעֵד
Is it any pleasure	to the Almighty	H3588	that thou art righteous	H518	or is it gain	
H2656	H7706		H6663		H1215	
כִּי	תִּתְכִּיבָּן					
H3588	perfect	to him that thou makest thy ways	H1870			
H8552						

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