

Job 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

Analysis

I would know the words which he would answer me—Job craves divine explanation, not just relief from suffering. The verb *yada* (יָדָע, to know) means intimate, experiential knowledge beyond mere intellectual information. Job wants to understand God's reasoning, confident that divine wisdom would vindicate rather than condemn him. **What he would say unto me** emphasizes personal communication—Job seeks 'I-Thou' encounter, not abstract theological propositions.

This longing for divine self-disclosure anticipates Scripture's progressive revelation. Job lived before Sinai, before prophets, before incarnation—yet he intuitively understood that knowing God's words brings clarity to human confusion. The New Testament fulfills this: the Word (Λόγος, Logos) became flesh (John 1:14), and through Christ we hear God's ultimate answer to suffering. Job's desire for God's words finds completion in Jesus, who reveals the Father's character and purposes.

Historical Context

Job's quest for divine communication occurs in a pre-Mosaic context without written Scripture or prophetic tradition as Israel would later know. Ancient wisdom literature across the Near East explored how deities communicate with humans—through dreams, omens, or intermediaries. Job's direct approach—

wanting unmediated words from God—reflects extraordinary faith in divine accessibility and willingness to engage human questions.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Job's longing to hear God's words teach about the priority of divine revelation over human speculation?
2. How should we balance accepting mystery in suffering with Job's legitimate desire for understanding?
3. In what ways has Christ's incarnation—the Word made flesh—answered Job's longing for divine communication?

Interlinear Text

אֶדְעָה	מִלִּים	יַעֲנֶה נִי	אֲבִינָה	מֶה
I would know	the words	which he would answer	me and understand	H4100
H3045	H4405	H6030	H995	
וְאָמַר	לִי:			
what he would say	H0			
H559				