

Job 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.

Analysis

Will he plead against me with his great power? (הַבְּרַבְכָּה יָרִיב עַמְּדֵי)—Job questions whether God would use overwhelming might (rav koach, great power) to crush him in debate rather than engage fairly. The verb yariv (contend, plead) suggests legal disputation. Job fears divine omnipotence might silence legitimate questions through sheer force rather than reasoned argument.

No; but he would put strength in me (שָׁמַבְּדֵי, sam-bi)—Job answers his own question, trusting God's character. Rather than crushing the petitioner, God would sim (set, place, appoint) strength within Job himself. This profound insight grasps that divine-human encounter doesn't diminish the creature but empowers. God doesn't debate to dominate but engages to elevate. This anticipates grace theology: God grants the very strength needed to relate to Him (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 3:16).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern deities were often portrayed as capricious tyrants who demanded submission without explanation. Job's theology stands radically distinct—he trusts a God who would strengthen rather than crush petitioners, who values relationship over raw power. This passage influenced later Jewish and Christian understanding of prayer as bold approach to a Father who welcomes honest questioning (Hebrews 4:16).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Job's confidence that God strengthens rather than crushes petitioners change how you approach God with hard questions?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between divine power and divine character?
3. How does God's empowering presence in prayer fulfill Job's intuition that encounter with God strengthens rather than destroys?

Interlinear Text

הָאֵל אֶלְעָמֵד יְבָבֶב
me with his great power Will he plead against
H7230 H3581 H7378 H5978 H3808 H389 H1931

וְאֵלֵי שָׁלֵךְ
No but he would put H0
H7760

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:21 (Parallel theme): Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.