

Job 27:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

Analysis

Moreover Job continued his parable (וַיַּסַּף אִיּוֹב שְׁאת מִשְׁלֹו). The verb yasaph (יָסַף) means to add or continue—Job persists in his defense despite his friends' failure to understand. Mashal (מִשְׁלָה, parable/proverb) indicates elevated discourse, poetic wisdom speech rather than mere conversation. This term appears for Balaam's oracles (Numbers 23:7), marking Job's words as prophetic utterance.

The phrase signals a turning point—Job has endured three cycles of debate with his friends, and now intensifies his self-defense (chapters 27-31). His 'parable' will affirm his integrity while acknowledging God's sovereignty, preparing for the divine speeches in chapters 38-41. The structure mirrors prophetic literature where God's spokesman perseveres in declaring truth despite opposition.

Historical Context

Job 27 marks the conclusion of the dialogue cycles and Job's final major speech before Elihu's intervention. The use of 'mashal' (parable/oracle) elevates the discourse beyond human argument to wisdom that anticipates divine revelation. This literary structure reflects Ancient Near Eastern wisdom dialogues where truth emerges through dialectical persistence.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Job's persistence in speaking truth despite misunderstanding encourage you to maintain theological conviction under pressure?
2. What does Job's use of elevated 'parable' discourse teach about taking seriously the weight and form of our words about God?
3. In what ways should we balance Job's bold self-defense with Christ's silent submission before accusers?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי כִּי אָמַרְתָּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִשְׁלָל וְאָמַרְתָּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
continued Moreover Job H3254 H347 H5375 his parable H4912 and said H559

Additional Cross-References

Job 29:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,

Numbers 24:15 (Parallel theme): And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

Numbers 23:7 (Parallel theme): And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.