

Job 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul;

Analysis

Job makes a solemn oath: "As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul." The oath formula "as God liveth" (chai-el, לַחַי־אֵל) invokes God as witness and enforcer. The verb sur (סור, "taken away") means to remove or turn aside. Job claims God has denied him justice (mishpat, מִשְׁפָּט). The verb marar (מָרַר, "vexed") means to embitter. Job's audacity is striking: he swears by the very God he accuses of injustice. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates that even wounded faith clings to God—Job has nowhere else to turn. This anticipates Peter's response: "Lord, to whom shall we go?" (John 6:68). Job's oath contains both protest and faith: he protests God's treatment while simultaneously acknowledging God's authority to enforce oaths. This paradox characterizes authentic lament—bringing complaints to God, not abandoning Him because of complaints.

Historical Context

Oath formulas invoking God's life were solemn in ancient Israel (Ruth 3:13, 1 Samuel 14:39). Such oaths made God witness and avenger if the oath-taker proved false. Job's oath is remarkable because he simultaneously protests God's treatment and appeals to God's justice. This reflects covenant relationship—Job can argue with God precisely because he's in relationship with Him. Lament psalms (Psalm 13, 22, 88) similarly combine protest and faith.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Job's oath by the God he's questioning demonstrate that authentic faith can include honest protest?
2. What is the difference between faithless complaint and faith-filled lament?
3. How do lament psalms and Job's protests give permission for believers to bring raw emotions and questions to God?

Interlinear Text

חַיִּים	אֵל	יְהוָה	חָטָה	וְיָשַׁב
liveth	As God	who hath taken away	my judgment	and the Almighty
H2416	H410	H5493	H4941	H7706
וְיָשַׁב	נַפְשִׁי			
who hath vexed	my soul			
H4843	H5315			

Additional Cross-References

Job 34:5 (Judgment): For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment.

2 Kings 4:27 (References God): And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

Numbers 14:21 (Parallel theme): But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

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