

Job 27:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous.

Analysis

Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that riseth up against me as the unrighteous (יְהִי כְבִשָּׁע אֹיְבִי וּמִתְקוֹמְמִי כְעוֹל). This imprecatory statement seems shocking until properly understood—Job isn't cursing his enemies to become wicked, but declaring that only the wicked would be his true enemies. The Hebrew construction equates his enemy (oyeb, אֹיְבִי) with the wicked (rasha, כְּבִשָּׁע) and the unrighteous (avval, כְּעוֹל).

Job essentially declares: 'If there is anyone who is truly my enemy, let him prove to be wicked'—meaning that no righteous person has cause to oppose Job, only the wicked. This subtle logic vindicates Job's integrity. The verse connects to imprecatory psalms (Psalm 109, 137) where the righteous call for justice against God's enemies. Reformed theology recognizes these as appeals for divine justice, not personal vengeance—zeal for God's honor and kingdom righteousness, anticipating final judgment when God will vindicate His people and condemn the impenitent.

Historical Context

Imprecatory prayers appear throughout Ancient Near Eastern literature, but biblical examples always ground themselves in covenant faithfulness and divine justice rather than personal vindictiveness. Job's statement reflects confidence that his cause is just before God, and anyone opposing him opposes righteousness itself—a dangerous claim that God will later both challenge and vindicate.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can we maintain the biblical tension between praying for enemies (Matthew 5:44) and calling for divine justice against God's opponents?
2. What does Job's confidence that only the wicked would oppose him teach about the connection between righteousness and persecution?
3. In what ways do imprecatory prayers reflect zeal for God's kingdom rather than personal revenge?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי	כְּרָשָׁע	אֵלֵי יָבִי	וּמִתְקוֹמֶמָה
H1961	be as the wicked	Let mine enemy	and he that riseth up
	H7563	H341	H6965
כְּעֵל:			
against me as the unrighteous			
H5767			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 4:19 (Parallel theme): Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.