

Job 27:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?

Analysis

Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him? (הֲצִמְקוּתוֹ יִשְׁמַע אֱלֹהֵי תְבוּאָה) (עֲלִי צָרָה). The rhetorical question expects a negative answer—the wicked man's cry (tsa'aqah, צָעֲקָה, desperate outcry) will not be heard when tsarah (צָרָה, distress/trouble) overtakes him. Job describes the fate of the wicked in contrast to his own persistent prayer despite suffering.

The irony cuts deep: Job himself has been crying to God throughout his ordeal (chapters 3-31), yet feels unheard—now he describes how the wicked will truly go unheard. This anticipates Jesus's teaching that God doesn't hear sinners (John 9:31) and James's warning that prayers can be hindered by wrong motives (James 4:3). Yet Psalm 34:17 promises God hears the righteous when they cry. The text wrestles with theodicy: why does the righteous Job feel unheard while affirming that God won't hear the wicked? This tension resolves only in Christ, who was forsaken (Matthew 27:46) so believers' prayers would be heard.

Historical Context

The Ancient Near Eastern worldview assumed that deities responded to proper cultic worship, making unanswered prayer theologically problematic. Job's dialogue probes deeper—prayer's effectiveness depends on the pray-er's righteousness and relationship with God, not mere ritual correctness. This prepares for New Testament teaching on prayer in Jesus's name based on covenant relationship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile Job's experience of feeling unheard with God's promise to hear the righteous?
2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between lifestyle and effective prayer?
3. How does Christ's forsakenness on the cross ensure that God will never ultimately abandon the prayers of His people?

Interlinear Text

הַ צְעֻקָתוֹ	שִׁמְעוּ עוֹ	אֵל ל	כִּי	תָבֹא	עַל יוֹ	צָרָה:
his cry	hear	Will God	H3588	cometh	H5921	when trouble
H6818	H8085	H410		H935		H6869

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Proverbs 1:28 (Parallel theme): Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Jeremiah 14:12 (Parallel theme): When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Psalms 18:41 (Parallel theme): They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

Micah 3:4 (Parallel theme): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Psalms 66:18 (Parallel theme): If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Jeremiah 11:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

Zechariah 7:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

James 4:3 (Parallel theme): Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Ezekiel 8:18 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.