

Job 29:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless,
and him that had none to help him.

Analysis

Job recalls: 'Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.' The verb *natsal* (נָצַל, delivered) means to rescue or save. *Ani* (אֲנִי, poor) refers to the afflicted or oppressed. *Yatom* (יָתוֹם, fatherless) denotes orphans. Job's defense includes his righteous conduct—he practiced justice and mercy. The verse demonstrates that Job's claim of innocence wasn't mere protestation but substantiated by righteous living. Job fulfilled what Torah would later command about caring for the vulnerable (Deuteronomy 24:17-21).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law codes (Hammurabi, Ur-Nammu) emphasized protecting the vulnerable. Biblical law especially stresses care for widows, orphans, and the poor. Job's conduct reflected wisdom that predated Mosaic law but aligned with it. His righteous works validate his innocence—he doesn't claim sinless perfection but demonstrates the righteous character his friends deny.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Job's example of caring for the vulnerable challenge our practice of justice and mercy?
2. What is the difference between claiming sinless perfection and demonstrating genuine righteousness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֲנִי מַלֵּט	עַנֵּי	מְשֻׁעַ	וְיָתוֹם	וְלֹא
H3588	Because I delivered	the poor	that cried	and the fatherless	H3808
	H4422	H6041	H7768	H3490	
	עִיָּר	לֹא			
	and him that had none to help	H0			
	H5826				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 72:12 (Parallel theme): For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

Proverbs 21:13 (Parallel theme): Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

James 1:27 (Parallel theme): Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Psalms 68:5 (Parallel theme): A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Deuteronomy 10:18 (Parallel theme): He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

