

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 (אָנִי, poor) refers to the afflicted or oppressed. Yatom (וָתוֹם, 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

Psalm 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

בִּיְמְלֹאת־עַתִּים־עַל־עָדָלָה־לְאָנָשִׁים־בְּלֹא־מִלְּמָדָה
Because I delivered the poor that cried and the fatherless
H3588 H4422 H6041 H7768 H3490 H3808

רַבְּעֵי־עַד־בְּלֹא־מִלְּמָדָה
and him that had none to help
H5826 H0

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.

