

Job 30:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face.

Analysis

They abhor me (תָּשַׁׁׁבּוּנִי)—The Hebrew *ta'av* (תָּשַׁׁׁבּוּנִי) expresses visceral disgust, ritual uncleanness, the same term for abominations God hates. Former admirers now treat Job as contaminated. **They flee far from me** (גַּדְעָה מִמְּנִי)—Physical distance accompanies emotional rejection; they won't risk proximity to one cursed. This isolates Job completely—the universal human response to suffering is often withdrawal, fearing contagion or discomfort.

Spare not to spit in my face (וְלֹא-צָשַׁׁׁכּוּ מִפְּנֵי רֵקָה)—Spitting in someone's face constituted the gravest insult in Hebrew culture (Numbers 12:14, Deuteronomy 25:9). The verb *chasak* (חָשַׁק) means to withhold or restrain—they don't hold back from ultimate contempt. Isaiah 50:6 prophesies the Suffering Servant would endure this: 'I hid not my face from shame and spitting.' Matthew 26:67 and 27:30 record Christ's literal fulfillment—spat upon during His trial and crucifixion.

Historical Context

Spitting in someone's face was ancient Israel's supreme expression of contempt, used in cases of public shaming or covenant breaking. The law prescribed it for a brother who refused levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:9). Miriam's leprosy punishment included the image of her father spitting in her face (Numbers 12:14). That Job—a man of unimpeachable integrity—receives this treatment shows complete social breakdown. The righteous sufferer becomes the object of scorn reserved for covenant breakers and lepers.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Job's experience of abandonment and contempt prepare us to understand Christ's passion?
2. Why do people often withdraw from those who suffer? How can we resist this impulse?
3. What does it mean to stand with those whom society has deemed 'untouchable' or cursed?

Interlinear Text

לֹא אַמְפִּתִּי בְּפִי בְּעַלְמִי תְּעַבְּדִי
They abhor me they flee far H4480 in my face H3808 from me and spare H2820

:לֹא
not to spit
H7536

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:6 (Parallel theme): I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Matthew 26:67 (Parallel theme): Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Psalms 88:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

Numbers 12:14 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

Deuteronomy 25:9 (Parallel theme): Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.

Matthew 27:30 (Parallel theme): And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

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