

Job 31:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;

Analysis

Job defends his treatment of servants: 'If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; What then shall I do when God riseth up?' Job's recognition of servants' rights and divine judgment reveals remarkable social conscience for his era.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures generally granted masters absolute authority over servants. Job's respect for servants' 'cause' (legal right) reflects unusual ethical sensitivity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your treatment of those under your authority reflect your view of God?
2. What does Job's social conscience teach about justice?

Interlinear Text

אָמַת אָמַת אָמַת מִשְׁפָּט עַבְדִּי תְּאַמְתִּי
H518 If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant
H3988 H4941 H5650 H519

עַבְדִּי בְּרַבָּם
H7378 H5978

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