

Job 31:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

Analysis

Did not he that made me in the womb make him? (הלא בִּבְטֶן עָשָׂהוּ, halo ba-beten oseini asahu)—the doubled verb *asah* (עָשָׂה, make/fashion) emphasizes the Creator's universal work. **Did not one fashion us in the womb?** (vay-khuneinu be-rehem ehad, וְאֶחָד בְּרַחֵם אֶחָד) uses *kun* (כָּן, establish/fashion) and *ehad* (אֶחָד, one), emphasizing shared origin.

This is Scripture's earliest explicit statement of human equality grounded in creation. Job argues: since God formed both master and servant in the womb, they share essential dignity and worth. This theology undergirds Malachi 2:10 ("Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?") and Paul's declaration that in Christ "there is neither bond nor free" (Galatians 3:28). Job's treatment of servants (vv. 13-15) flows from creation theology—to despise those made in God's image is to despise their Maker.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures had rigid social hierarchies with masters having absolute power over slaves. Job's theology was radically countercultural—he granted servants legal standing to bring cases against him (v. 13). This anticipates Mosaic law's protections for servants (Exodus 21:26-27) and reflects Job's Edomite-era knowledge of creation theology (Genesis 1:27). The womb imagery emphasizes pre-social equality—class distinctions are human constructs, not divine design.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God fashioned all people in the womb challenge social, economic, or racial prejudice?
2. In what areas of life do you treat people differently based on their social status rather than their image-bearing dignity?
3. How does Job's creation-based ethics inform Christian engagement with issues of human rights and equality today?

Interlinear Text

הֵלֵא	בַּבְּטֶן	עָשָׂה הוּא	עָשָׂה הוּא	אֵל יִכְנֶה נֹו
H3808	me in the womb	Did not he that made	Did not he that made	fashion
	H990	H6213	H6213	H3559
בְּרַחֲמֵי	אֵלֶיךָ:			
us in the womb	him and did not one			
H7358	H259			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:31 (Parallel theme): He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

Proverbs 22:2 (Parallel theme): The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Malachi 2:10 (Creation): Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org