

Job 31:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:

Analysis

If I covered my transgressions as Adam (אִם־כִּסִּיתִי כְאָדָם פְּשָׁעַי, im-kisiti ke'adam pesha'ai)—kasah (כָּסָה) means to cover or conceal, ke'adam (כְּאָדָם) means 'as Adam' or 'like mankind,' and pesha (פֶּשַׁע) means transgression or rebellion. **By hiding mine iniquity in my bosom** (לִטְמוֹן בְּחֻבִּי אֲוֹנִי, litmon bechubbi avoni)—taman (תָּמַן) means to hide or bury, and avon (אָוֶן) means iniquity or guilt. Job denies covering sin like Adam who hid after disobeying (Genesis 3:7-8).

This allusion to humanity's first sin reveals Job's theological sophistication. Adam's covering (fig leaves) and hiding demonstrated awareness of guilt and fear of exposure. Job claims he didn't conceal sin but lived transparently before God and man. Proverbs 28:13 teaches that concealing sin prevents prosperity, but confession finds mercy. From a Reformed perspective, Job's transparency contrasts with humanity's universal tendency toward self-justification and concealment. His claim anticipates the gospel where confession precedes forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Job's integrity included honesty about failings, not pretending to be sinless. His defense isn't claiming perfection but denying the specific sins his friends alleged.

Historical Context

The reference to Adam demonstrates that Job knew the Genesis account. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various creation and fall narratives, but Job refers to biblical revelation. His understanding that covering sin leads to judgment reflects

covenant theology. The verse shows that Job's righteousness included honest self-assessment and confession of actual sin, not the false sins his friends invented.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Job's reference to Adam's covering of sin challenge our tendency to hide moral failures?
2. What is the difference between Job's claim of innocence regarding specific charges versus claiming sinless perfection?
3. How does transparent living before God and others demonstrate genuine repentance versus self-protective concealment?

Interlinear Text

אֲדַכּוּ	כִּסֵּי יָתִי	כְּאָדָם	פְּשָׁעִי	לִטְמֹן	בְּחֶבֶץ
H518	If I covered	as Adam	my transgressions	by hiding	in my bosom
	H3680	H121	H6588	H2934	H2243
עֲוֹנִי:					
mine iniquity					
H5771					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:13 (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Hosea 6:7 (Parallel theme): But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

Acts 5:8 (Parallel theme): And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Genesis 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Joshua 7:11 (Sin): Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

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