

Job 31:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.

Analysis

I would declare unto him the number of my steps (מִסְפָּר אֲעֲדִי אֵינֶנּוּ, mispar tse'aday 'aggidenu)—Job concludes his oath of innocence by asserting he would approach God with complete transparency. The phrase 'number of my steps' uses mispar (count, accounting) and tse'ad (steps, paces), indicating a detailed record of his entire life path. **As a prince would I go near unto him** (כְּמוֹ-נָגִיד אֶקְרָבֶנּוּ, kemo-nagid 'aqarvenu)—the word nagid means prince, leader, or noble, conveying confidence and dignity, not arrogance.

This verse reveals Job's desire for vindication through direct encounter with God. Rather than cowering before the Almighty, Job insists his integrity would allow him to stand boldly, presenting a complete account of his conduct. This confidence stems not from self-righteousness but from genuine innocence regarding his friends' accusations. The princely approach anticipates the New Testament teaching that believers have bold access to God's throne through Christ (Hebrews 4:16, 10:19). Job's longing for divine audience foreshadows the coming mediator who makes such access possible.

Historical Context

This verse concludes Job's final self-defense (chapters 29-31), a massive oath of innocence addressing potential sins from adultery to oppression. In ancient Near Eastern legal culture, oaths invoked divine witness and carried severe consequences for perjury. Job's willingness to enumerate his steps before God

demonstrates supreme confidence in his blamelessness regarding his friends' charges. The patriarchal period lacked formal courts, making personal honor and divine vindication paramount.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What would change if you lived with the awareness that God observes and records every step of your life?
2. How does Job's confidence to approach God 'as a prince' anticipate the believer's access to God through Christ?
3. In what ways can we maintain both humility before God and confidence in Christ's righteousness that grants us bold access?

Interlinear Text

מִסְפָּר	אֶפְדִּי	אֶגִּיד	כְּמוֹ	נִגַּל יָד
unto him the number	of my steps	I would declare	H3644	as a prince
H4557	H6806	H5046		H5057

אֶקְרַבְנִי:

would I go near

H7126

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

