

Job 32:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion.

Analysis

Elihu makes his case: "Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion." The imperative shama (שָׁמָעַ, "hearken") demands serious attention—the same verb in the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4). The noun de'ah (דֵּעָה, "opinion") means knowledge or understanding. Elihu claims not personal opinion but divinely-illuminated insight. His confidence stems not from age or status but from conviction that the Spirit grants understanding (verse 8). From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the priesthood of all believers—truth isn't mediated exclusively through ecclesiastical hierarchy but through Scripture illuminated by the Spirit. Yet Elihu's lengthy speeches (chapters 32-37) reveal a danger: verbosity sometimes masks wisdom's absence. While Elihu makes valid points, God will not commend him directly (unlike Job in 42:7). This warns against confusing eloquence with divine approval and theological correctness with spiritual maturity.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom discourse followed conventions: appeals to age, observation, tradition, and divine revelation. Elihu employs all these but emphasizes Spirit-given insight over experiential learning. This anticipates Joel 2:28-29, where God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people regardless of age or status. The democratization of wisdom through the Spirit challenges hierarchical structures.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can we discern between Spirit-illuminated insight and mere personal opinion?
2. What warnings does Elihu's lengthy discourse offer about the relationship between eloquence and wisdom?
3. How does the doctrine of the Spirit's illumination inform authority structures in the church?

Interlinear Text

אַךְ לֹכֶד שְׁמַעַה אַמְרָתִי
H3651 Therefore I said H559 H8085

אֶתְּנֹהֶה דָּעַת אֶת־דִּעָמִיתִי
H2331 to me I also will shew mine opinion H1843

אַנְיָה

H589

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