

Job 32:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, or that answered his words:

Analysis

Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job (וְעָדִיכֶם אָתְּבָאתֶן וְהִנֵּה אֵין לְאִזֶּב מַזְכִּית) —bin means to understand, discern, or attend carefully; yakach means to prove, convince, reprove, or decide a case. **Or that answered his words** (עֲנָה אַמְרָיו מַקְמָה) —'anah means to answer, respond, or testify; 'emer is saying or word.

Elihu's verdict is devastating: despite three rounds of speeches, none of Job's friends successfully refuted his arguments or answered his challenges. The legal term mokhiach (one who convinces or proves) suggests courtroom failure—they couldn't convict Job of the hidden sins they alleged. Job maintained his integrity against their accusations, exposing the inadequacy of their retributive theology. This failure prepares for Elihu's different approach: rather than accusing Job of past sin, he'll argue that suffering can serve pedagogical and sanctifying purposes in the righteous (33:14-30). God's later rebuke of the three friends (42:7) vindicates Elihu's assessment.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern legal discourse required convincing evidence and testimony. The three friends functioned as prosecutors accusing Job of secret sin, but couldn't provide proof. Their failure demonstrates the limits of human wisdom in explaining divine providence. Elihu serves as both critic of the failed counselors and bridge to

God's coming speech, which will transcend all human explanations by revealing divine sovereignty and wisdom.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When have you seen simplistic theological explanations fail to account for complex realities of suffering?
2. How can we comfort sufferers without presuming to know God's specific purposes in their trials?
3. What does the friends' failure teach about the limits of human wisdom in explaining divine providence?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר וְבָא יְהֹוָה אֶתְתָּב וְנִזְדַּקְכָּה

H5704

Yea I attended

H995

H2009

H369

Job

H347

מִזְכָּר יְהֹוָה

unto you and behold there was none of you that convinced or that answered his words

H3198

עוֹנֵת הָ

H6030

אָמַר יְ

H561

מִזְכָּר:

H4480