

Job 33:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy,

Analysis

Behold, he findeth occasions against me (הִנֵּה תְּנוּאֹת יִמְצָא־לְעָלָי, hen tenu'ot yimtza-alai)—Elihu quotes Job's complaint that God seeks pretexts to condemn him. **תְּנוּאֹת** (tenu'ot, 'occasions') derives from **אָנָה** (anah, 'to meet, encounter'), suggesting contrived opportunities or manufactured charges. **יִמְצָא!** (yimtza, 'findeth') implies active searching—Job had accused God of scrutinizing him to discover faults (7:17-20, 10:13-17). This reflects Job's distorted perception: believing God hostile rather than pedagogical.

He counteth me for his enemy (יִחַשְׁבֵּנִי לְאוֹיֵב לוֹ) (chashav, 'counteth/reckoneth') means to think, consider, or account. **אוֹיֵב** (oyev, 'enemy') describes active hostility, not mere opposition. Job had made this accusation explicitly (13:24, 19:11)—seeing God as adversary rather than sovereign Father. Elihu will refute this thoroughly: God disciplines those He loves (33:14-30), using suffering to prevent sin (33:17-18) and restore relationship (33:26-28). Job's error lay in interpreting divine discipline as divine enmity—a mistake believers still make when trials come.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions often portrayed capricious gods who acted arbitrarily or hostilely toward humans. Job's complaint echoed pagan theology more than covenant faith. Israel's God disciplines His children (Deuteronomy 8:5, Proverbs 3:11-12), but Job's suffering had temporarily obscured this truth. Elihu's

correction anticipates Hebrews 12:5-11, which quotes Proverbs to explain that God's discipline proves sonship, not enmity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you interpret trials—as divine hostility or fatherly discipline?
2. What distorted views of God emerge when we focus on circumstances rather than His revealed character?
3. How does understanding God as loving Father rather than hostile judge change your response to suffering?

Interlinear Text

נְאוֹתָהּ	עַל	תְּ	נְאוֹתָהּ	נְ	יְחִשֵּׁב	בְּ	יְ	יְחִשֵּׁב	בְּ	יְ	
H2005	occasions	H5921	Behold	he findeth	H4672	against	me he counteth	H2803			
		H8569									
לְאוֹן	לְאוֹן	בְּ									
me for his	enemy	H0									
		H341									

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:11 (Parallel theme): He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counteth me unto him as one of his enemies.