

# Job 33:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him:  
and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man  
his righteousness.

## Analysis

**He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him** (ya'tar 'el-'ēlôah wayiršēhû, יַעֲתַר אֶל־אֱלֹהִים וַיִּרְשֶׁהוּ)—The verb 'atar means to pray, entreat, or make supplication. God's response is rāšāh (to be pleased with, accept favorably, show grace). This depicts restored relationship after suffering's discipline. Prayer, silenced by suffering's intensity, resumes with confidence of divine acceptance. The name 'Ēlôah (singular form of Elohim) emphasizes God's power and majesty, yet He graciously receives human entreaty.

**And he shall see his face with joy** (wěyar' pānāyw biṭrû'āh, וַיֵּרָא פָנָיו בְּתִרְוָעָה)—To see God's face (pānîm) means experiencing His favorable presence, not literal vision (Exodus 33:20). The phrase echoes priestly benediction: 'The LORD make his face shine upon thee' (Numbers 6:25). Těrû'āh is a shout of joy, triumph, or loud acclaim—the worship cry of Israel. Restored relationship produces jubilant worship.

**For he will render unto man his righteousness** (wayyāšeb lě'ěnnôš šidqātô, וַיָּשֶׁב לְעֹנֹשׁ צְדָקָתוֹ)—God 'returns' (šûb) righteousness (šedāqāh) to humanity. This could mean restoring the person's righteous standing or crediting righteousness to them. Either reading anticipates Pauline justification: God credits righteousness to those who believe (Romans 4:5-6). Elihu's theology foreshadows the gospel—ransom paid (v.24), righteousness restored (v.26), relationship renewed.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Israel, seeing God's face represented covenant favor and access to worship. The temple cultus centered on seeking God's face (Psalm 24:6, 27:8). To be turned away from God's presence meant judgment (Deuteronomy 31:17). Elihu describes full covenant restoration where barriers erected by sin and suffering are removed through divine ransom and righteousness. This anticipates New Covenant access through Christ.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does restored prayer access after suffering demonstrate that the trial's purpose was reconciliation, not rejection?
2. What does it mean to 'see God's face with joy,' and how does Christ make this possible (2 Corinthians 3:18)?
3. How does God 'rendering righteousness' to humanity point to the doctrine of justification by faith?

## Interlinear Text

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יַעֲבֹד רַ	אֶל	אֶל וְהָא	וְרָצָה הוּ	וַיֵּרָא
He shall pray	H413	unto God	and he will be favourable	unto him and he shall see
H6279		H433	H7521	H7200
פָּנָיו	בְּתִרוּעָה	וַיִּשָּׁב	לְאָדָם וְשׁ	צְדִיקָתוֹ:
his face	with joy	for he will render	unto man	his righteousness
H6440	H8643	H7725	H582	H6666

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 50:15** (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

**Psalms 30:5** (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

**Acts 2:28** (Parallel theme): Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

**Acts 9:11** (Prayer): And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

**Isaiah 30:19** (Parallel theme): For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

**Hebrews 11:26** (Parallel theme): Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

**Jude 1:24** (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

**Psalms 67:1** (References God): God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

**Psalms 91:15** (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

**Proverbs 24:12** (Parallel theme): If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?