

Job 33:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man,

Analysis

Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man (הִנֵּנִי כֹל־עֲלֵה יִפְעַל־אֱלֹהִים שְׁלוֹשׁ עַם־גִּבֹּר, hen-kol-eleh yiphal-El pa'amayim shalosh im-gaver)—The phrase "twice, three times" (pa'amayim shalosh) is Hebrew idiom for "repeatedly" (not literally 2-3 times). The verb pa'al (פָּעַל, "to work, do") emphasizes God's active engagement. Elihu argues God repeatedly intervenes in human lives, not abandoning them to death. This counters Job's sense of divine abandonment (Job 7:19, 10:20). The noun gaver (גִּבֹּר, man/mighty man) emphasizes humanity's smallness compared to God's greatness.

Elihu's theology affirms divine persistence: God doesn't give one warning then abandon. This anticipates Jesus's parable of the persistent father waiting for the prodigal (Luke 15:20) and God's patience in Romans 2:4: "the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Reformed theology speaks of "irresistible grace"—God's effectual calling doesn't fail (John 6:37, 44). Elihu sees suffering not as abandonment but repeated divine intervention to bring people back from destruction.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions often portrayed gods as capricious, giving single warnings before destructive judgment. Elihu's emphasis on God's repeated interventions distinguishes Yahweh as patient and redemptive. This aligns with covenant theology—God's commitment to relationship despite human failure.

Hosea, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all emphasize God's persistent pursuit of unfaithful Israel (Hosea 11:8, Jeremiah 31:3).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's repeated intervention in your life demonstrate His patience?
2. What is the relationship between divine discipline and divine love?
3. How should God's persistence affect our response to His correction?

Interlinear Text

הָ	כָּל	אֵלֶּה	יַפְעֵל	לֵא	פַּעַם	יְשׁוּעַ	עַם
H2005	H3605	H428	Lo all these things worketh	God	oftentimes	H7969	H5973
			H6466	H410	H6471		

גִּבּוֹרִים
with man
H1397

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 1:11 (Parallel theme): In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

1 Corinthians 12:6 (References God): And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

2 Corinthians 5:5 (References God): Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Philippians 2:13 (References God): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org