

Job 33:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Analysis

Elihu declares: 'The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.' The phrase ruach-El (רוּחַ-אֱלֹהִים, Spirit of God) parallels nishmat Shaddai (נִשְׁמַת שַׁדַּי, breath of the Almighty). Both asatni (אֲשַׁתְּנִי, made me) and techayeni (תַּחְיֵנִי, given me life) emphasize dependence on God for existence. Elihu establishes common ground with Job—both are creatures owing existence to God's creative breath. This acknowledgment of creaturely equality prepares Elihu's argument: neither can claim superiority, both must submit to divine wisdom.

Historical Context

Elihu's reference to God's Spirit creating and giving life echoes Genesis 2:7 where God breathed life into Adam. Ancient Near Eastern cosmologies portrayed humans as created by gods, but biblical creation uniquely emphasizes God's personal breath giving life. Elihu's self-description establishes humility—he speaks as fellow creature, not superior sage, yet claims divine inspiration for his words.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing our common dependence on God's creative breath affect how we interact with others?
2. What is the difference between claiming divine inspiration for our words and presuming our opinions equal God's truth?

Interlinear Text

רוּחַ	אֵל	עָשָׂה	תְּנִי	וְנִשְׁמָת	יְיָ
The Spirit	of God	hath made	me and the breath	of the Almighty	
H7307	H410	H6213	H5397	H7706	

תְּתִנֵּנִי
hath given me life
H2421

Additional Cross-References

Job 32:8 (Spirit): But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Genesis 2:7 (References God): And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Job 27:3 (Spirit): All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Spirit): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Job 10:12 (Spirit): Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.

Psalms 33:6 (Creation): By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Romans 8:2 (Spirit): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Job 10:3 (Parallel theme): Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?

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