

Job 33:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay.

Analysis

Elihu establishes common ground with Job: "Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay." The phrase "in God's stead" (le'el, לֵאֵל) means "toward God" or "in God's place"—Elihu offers to be Job's mediator, the very thing Job longed for (9:33, 16:19). The phrase "formed out of the clay" (qoratsti mechomer, קִרְצָתִי מֶחֱמֶר) emphasizes shared humanity. Elihu acknowledges he's not God but fellow creature. From a Reformed perspective, this highlights both the necessity and inadequacy of human mediation. Elihu correctly perceives Job's need for an advocate but cannot ultimately fulfill that role—only Christ can. The incarnation reveals God becoming human mediator: "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). Elihu's offer points toward this need while demonstrating that shared creatureliness, though necessary for true mediation, isn't sufficient without divine nature.

Historical Context

Job repeatedly requested an arbiter or umpire between him and God (9:33, 16:19-21, 19:25). Ancient legal systems included mediators for disputes. Elihu positions himself as such—someone who understands both Job's humanity and God's ways. This mediatorial concept develops through Scripture, from Moses (Exodus 20:19) to prophets to the ultimate Mediator, Christ.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Elihu's attempted mediation highlight the unique nature of Christ's mediation?
2. What does shared humanity add to effective pastoral care and counseling?
3. How do Elihu's limitations as mediator help us appreciate Christ's divine-human nature?

Interlinear Text

הֵן	אֲנִי	כִּפִּי	לֹא	מִחַמָּה
H2005	H589			
Behold I am according to thy wish		in God's	out of the clay	
		H6310	H410	H2563
קִלְבִּי	אֲנִי	גִם		
stead I also am formed				
H7169	H1571	H589		

Additional Cross-References

Job 4:19 (Parallel theme): How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?