

Job 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.

Analysis

Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid (הִנֵּה חֲתִיתִי לֹא תַבְעֶתְךָ, hinneh chittiti lo tevaatekka)—Elihu addresses Job's fear of divine confrontation. **חֲתִיתִי** (chittiti, 'my terror') derives from **חָתַת** (chatat, 'to be shattered, dismayed'), the overwhelming dread Job associated with facing God (9:34, 13:21). Elihu promises the opposite: accessible dialogue without intimidation. **לֹא תַבְעֶתְךָ** (lo tevaatekka, 'shall not make thee afraid') uses **בָּעַת** (ba'at, 'to terrify'), related to sudden panic.

Neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee (וְאֶכְפִּי אֵלַיִךְ לֹא יִכְבֹּד, ve-akpi aleika lo-yikvad)—**אֶכְפִּי** (ekef, 'my hand/pressure') suggests burdensome weight. **יִכְבֹּד** (kaved, 'be heavy') describes oppressive force, like Pharaoh's 'hardened' (literally 'heavy') heart (Exodus 7:14). Job had complained of God's heavy hand crushing him (23:2); Elihu promises gentleness. This remarkable verse answers Job's longing for a mediator (9:33)—someone between God and man who can communicate divine truth without divine terror. Elihu foreshadows Christ, the ultimate Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), who approaches us as fellow man while speaking God's truth.

Historical Context

Job's repeated expressions of terror at facing God (9:34-35, 13:20-21, 23:15-16) reflect ancient understanding of divine holiness—sinful humans cannot survive direct divine encounter (Exodus 33:20). Theophanies terrified even righteous people (Genesis 28:17, Isaiah 6:5). Elihu's promise of non-threatening dialogue

addressed Job's deepest fear, preparing him to eventually receive God's speech from the whirlwind without being destroyed.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ fulfill Elihu's role as accessible mediator between God and humanity?
2. When do you feel intimidated in approaching God—how does the gospel address that fear?
3. What does it mean that we can now approach God's throne boldly yet reverently (Hebrews 4:16)?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה ה	אֵ מַתִּי	לֹא	תִבְעֶתְךָ	אֶכְפֹּי
H2009	Behold my terror	H3808	shall not make thee afraid	neither shall my hand
	H367		H1204	H405
עַל יָדִי	לֹא	יִכָּבֵד:		
H5921	H3808	be heavy		
		H3513		

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:21 (Parallel theme): Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.

Job 9:34 (Parallel theme): Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:

