

Job 34:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because they turned back from him, and would not consider any of his ways:

Analysis

Because they turned back from him (אָשֶׁר עָלָק סָרוּ מִאֲחָרָיו)—The verb saru (they turned aside/departed) with me'acharav (from after Him) depicts deliberate apostasy. Following God (acharav, literally 'after Him') represents covenant loyalty; turning from this path is rebellion. This isn't ignorance but willful rejection of known truth. Romans 1:21 describes this progression: 'when they knew God, they glorified him not as God.'

And would not consider any of his ways (וְכַל־דְּבָרָיו לֹא הָשִׁיפָלוּ)—The verb hiskilu (from sakal, to be prudent, understand wisely) in the negative shows refusal to contemplate or obey divine ways. Derakav (His ways) denotes God's revealed patterns of righteousness and justice. Willful ignorance—refusing to consider God's ways despite opportunity—compounds guilt. Proverbs 1:7 warns: 'Fools despise wisdom and instruction.' The wicked judgment in verses 24-26 results from deliberate rejection, not innocent error. This establishes moral culpability—they knew better but chose rebellion.

Historical Context

In covenant relationship (Sinai, Davidic, New Covenant), 'walking after' God described loyal obedience while 'turning aside' meant apostasy. Deuteronomy repeatedly warned against turning from God's ways (Deuteronomy 11:16, 28; 31:29). Israel's history demonstrated this pattern: blessing followed obedience, judgment followed apostasy. Elihu applies this covenantal framework universally—

all humanity has access to natural revelation (Romans 1:19-20) and is accountable for response.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can we guard against the progression from following God to gradually turning aside from His ways?
2. What does it mean practically to 'consider His ways' in daily decision-making and life direction?
3. How does willful refusal to consider God's ways increase moral culpability compared to ignorant error?

Interlinear Text

רָאשָׁם	בְּ	עַל	אָשָׁר	רָא	בְּ	מִן	מִאָחָר	יְהִי	אָכְלָה	יְהִי	אָכְלָה
H834	H5921	H3651		Because they turned back	H5493		from him	H310		H3605	any of his ways
											H1870
אָנָּה	לְ	הַשְׁפִּילָה:									
H3808		and would not consider									
		H7919									

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:11 (Parallel theme): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

Isaiah 5:12 (Parallel theme): And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.

Psalms 28:5 (Parallel theme): Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

Hebrews 10:39 (Parallel theme): But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

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