

Job 34:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:

Analysis

Elihu observes: 'When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him?' This acknowledges divine sovereignty over both blessing and hiddenness. Yet asserting God's power doesn't answer why He hides His face from the righteous.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern theology recognized divine hiddenness as judgment. Elihu assumes Job's suffering stems from sin requiring God to hide His face.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when God hides His face?
2. What does divine hiddenness teach beyond judgment for sin?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה H1931	וְשָׁקַט H8252	וְהָיָה H4310	וְיָרָשׁ עַל H7561
	When he giveth quietness		who then can make trouble
וְכִשְׁתִּיב H5641	פָּנָיו H6440	וְיָרָשׁ עַל H4310	וְיָשׁוּבְנוּ H7789
and when he hideth	his face	who then can behold	
			H5921
הֲיִגְדָּה H1471	גַּם H5921	אֶת־אִישׁ H120	יִחְדָּה H3162
him whether it be done against a nation		or against a man	only

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:3 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Psalms 27:9 (Parallel theme): Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Job 23:13 (Parallel theme): But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.