

Job 34:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more:

Analysis

Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement (כִּי־לֵאמֹר לֵאלֹהִים, ki-el-El he'amar nasati lo echbol)—The verb nasa (נָשָׂא, "to bear, carry") refers to accepting punishment. The verb chaval (חָבַל, "to act corruptly, offend") means to do wrong. Elihu models proper response to divine discipline: acknowledge it and commit to reform. The phrase **I will not offend any more** expresses repentance—ceasing sin. This aligns with Proverbs 3:11-12: "despise not the chastening of the LORD... for whom the LORD loveth he correcteth."

Elihu presents the theologically correct response to suffering-as-discipline: accept it, learn from it, turn from sin. Hebrews 12:5-11 develops this fully—God's discipline proves sonship and produces righteousness. Yet Job's case complicates this: his suffering isn't punitive (1:8, 42:7). Not all suffering is disciplinary for personal sin. This anticipates Christ's teaching (John 9:3, the blind man) and Paul's theology (2 Corinthians 12:7-10, the thorn). Suffering serves multiple divine purposes beyond just correcting sin.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern texts (Babylonian Theodicy, Ludlul Bel Nemeqi) explored suffering's meaning. Common assumption: suffering indicates divine displeasure requiring appeasement. Elihu's counsel reflects standard wisdom—accept correction, reform behavior. Yet Job challenges this framework, anticipating NT

revelation that suffering serves purposes beyond personal discipline: conformity to Christ (Romans 8:28-29), witness (2 Corinthians 1:3-7), sanctification (James 1:2-4).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do we discern when suffering is divine discipline versus other purposes?
2. What is the proper response to God's chastisement?
3. How does Hebrews 12:5-11 help us understand suffering's role in spiritual formation?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לֹא	אֵל	ל	הָאֵלֹהִים	נָשָׂא אֶתִּי	לֹא
H3588	H413	unto God		Surely it is meet to be said	I have borne	H3808
		H410		H559	H5375	

אֶחָבֵל:

chastisement I will not offend

H2254

Additional Cross-References

Job 33:27 (Parallel theme): He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

Micah 7:9 (Parallel theme): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

