

Job 34:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end because of his answers for wicked men.

Analysis

My desire is that Job may be tried unto the end (אָבִי יִבְחַן אִיּוֹב עַד-נְצָח) —The noun *av* (אָבִי, father) here likely means "my desire" (ancient versions interpret variously). The verb *bachan* (בִּחַן), "to test, examine") and *netzach* (נְצָח, end, perpetuity) suggest thorough testing. The phrase **because of his answers for wicked men** uses *teshuah* (תְּשׁוּבָה, answer, reply) and *aven* (אָוֶן, wickedness, iniquity). Elihu wants Job tested exhaustively because his words align with the wicked's theology—questioning God's justice.

Elihu's desire for Job's continued testing is harsh, even cruel. Yet God permits Job's testing for redemptive purposes (42:5, "now mine eye seeth thee"). Peter explains: trials test faith like fire refines gold (1 Peter 1:6-7). James adds: testing produces perseverance and maturity (James 1:2-4). Yet we must not desire others' prolonged suffering—that's vindictiveness. God alone knows the proper measure and duration of trials. Christ endured ultimate testing (Hebrews 4:15, tempted in all points) to sympathize with our testing.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom tradition valued testing/proving righteousness (Abraham tested in Genesis 22, Israel tested in wilderness, Deuteronomy 8:2). Yet Job's friends and Elihu wrongly assume all testing reveals hidden sin. NT clarifies: testing can prove faith genuine (1 Peter 1:7), produce perseverance (James 1:3), or conform to

Christ's image (Romans 8:28-29). Job's testing ultimately served apologetic purposes (Job 1-2, answering Satan's accusation) and revelatory purposes (Job 42:5, deepening knowledge of God).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we understand the purpose of prolonged trials in light of God's goodness?
2. What is appropriate versus inappropriate response to others' suffering?
3. How does Christ's experience of testing (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15) provide comfort in trials?

Interlinear Text

אֵב	יְבַחֵד	אֵב	עַד	צָחַק	עַל
My desire	may be tried	is that Job	H5704	unto the end	H5921
H15	H974	H347		H5331	

תְּשַׁבֵּת	בְּאַנְשֵׁי	אַיִל:
because of his answers	H376	for wicked
H8666		H205

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