

# 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 יִבְחֵן אֶיּוֹב עַד־נֶצַח, avi yivachen Iyyov ad-netzach)—The noun av (אָב, father) here likely means "my desire" (ancient versions interpret variously). The verb bachan (בָּחַן, "to test, examine") and netzach (נֶצַח, end, perpetuity) suggest thorough testing. The phrase **because of his answers for wicked men** (עַל־תְּשׁוּבָתוֹ בְּאַנְשֵׁי־אָוֶן) uses teshuvah (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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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אֲבִי י	יָבִיחַ	אִי וְ	עַד	נָ צַח	עַל
<b>My desire</b>	<b>may be tried</b>	<b>is that Job</b>	H5704	<b>unto the end</b>	H5921
H15	H974	H347		H5331	
תִּשָּׁבַת	בְּאַנְשֵׁי	אֵלָיו:			
<b>because of his answers</b>	H376	<b>for wicked</b>			
H8666		H205			

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