

# Job 34:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he addeth rebellion unto his sin, he clappeth his hands among us, and multiplieth his words against God.

## Analysis

**For he addeth rebellion unto his sin** (כִּי־יוֹסִיף עַל־חַטָּאתוֹ פְּשָׁע, ki-yosiph al-chattato pesha)—The verb yasaph (יָסַף, "to add") indicates compounding. The noun pesha (פְּשָׁע, rebellion, transgression) is stronger than chatta't (חַטָּאת, sin, missing the mark). Elihu accuses Job of adding deliberate rebellion to sin. The phrase **he clappeth his hands among us** (בְּיָמֵינוּ יִסְפֹּק, benenu yispoq) uses saphaq (סָפַק, "to clap"), possibly meaning mockery or defiant gesture. The phrase **multiplieth his words against God** (וַיַּרְבֵּב אִמְרָיו לַ־אֵל, ve-yerev amarav la-El) accuses Job of excessive speech against God.

Elihu misunderstands Job's lament as rebellion. Yet God will vindicate Job (42:7). This teaches discernment: honest questioning isn't rebellion. The Psalms model bringing raw emotions to God (Psalms 13, 22, 88). Lament is faith's cry when praise seems impossible. Jesus Himself cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). The gospel permits—even requires—brutal honesty before God. Christ bore actual rebellion (Isaiah 53:5, "the chastisement of our peace was upon him") so our honest struggles wouldn't be counted as rebellion.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern piety typically demanded stoic acceptance of divine decrees. Lament was permitted but within limits—excessive questioning risked blasphemy. Biblical faith uniquely permits profound lament and questioning (Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Psalms) while maintaining ultimate submission. Elihu reflects

conventional piety that mistakes honesty for rebellion. Jesus's Gethsemane prayer ("if it be possible, let this cup pass," Matthew 26:39) models combining honest desire with submission ("nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt").

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do we distinguish between faithful lament and sinful rebellion against God?
2. What does Jesus's cry of dereliction (Mark 15:34) teach about bringing pain to God?
3. How can we create spaces where honest struggle with God is welcomed rather than condemned?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	יֹסֵף	עַל	חַטָּאת וְ	פָּשַׁע	בֵּינֵינוּ	יִסַּף וְלֵךְ
H3588	<b>For he addeth</b>	H5921	<b>unto his sin</b>	<b>rebellion</b>	H996	<b>he clappeth</b>
	H3254		H2403	H6588		H5606
וְיָרֵב			אָמָר יוֹ	לְאֵל:		
<b>his hands among us and multiplieth</b>			<b>his words</b>	<b>against God</b>		
H7235			H561	H410		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 27:23** (Parallel theme): Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

**1 Samuel 15:23** (Word): For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

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