

Job 34:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good.

Analysis

Elihu invites collaboration: "Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what is good." The verb bachar (בָּחָר, "choose") means to select or decide. The noun mishpat (מִשְׁפָּט, "judgment") refers to justice or the right course. The verb yada (יִדָּע, "know") means to discern or understand. Elihu proposes corporate discernment—together determining truth. From a Reformed perspective, this models ecclesial decision-making: believers reasoning together under Scripture's authority. Acts 15 demonstrates apostolic practice of corporate deliberation. Yet Elihu's proposal also reveals presumption: humans cannot independently "choose" justice—it must be revealed by God. The difference between Elihu's approach and the Jerusalem Council is Scripture's role: Acts 15 discerned God's will through prophetic word, not mere consensus. Wisdom requires both community and submission to divine revelation.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's elders made corporate decisions at city gates (Deuteronomy 21:19). Wisdom literature valued consultation (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22). However, true discernment required Torah as standard (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). Elihu's proposal reflects cultural practice but lacks explicit grounding in divine revelation—a weakness God's speeches will remedy by divine self-disclosure.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does corporate discernment in the church relate to Scripture's authority?
2. What is the proper relationship between community wisdom and divine revelation in theological decision-making?
3. How can we avoid Elihu's presumption that we can independently determine what is good?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁפָט	בֵּין	יכֹל	נִדְעַת	ה	לְ	נוּ	נְבָתְרָה	מִשְׁפָט
to us judgment	Let us choose		H996		H3045			H4100
H4941	H977							

טוֹב:

among ourselves what is good

H2896

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (Good): Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.