

# Job 35:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.

## Analysis

**Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him** (אַף כִּי-תֹאמֶר לֹא תִשְׁׁרֵן)—The phrase refers to Job's complaint of God's hiddenness (Job 9:11, 13:24, 23:8-9). The verb shuwr (שׁוּר, "to see, perceive") indicates Job feels God is invisible, absent. The phrase **yet judgment is before him** (דִין לְפָנָיו) uses din (דִין, judgment, justice), assuring that God's justice operates despite appearances. The phrase **therefore trust thou in him** (וְתַחֲזֵל לֹא) uses chul (חוּל, "to wait, hope, trust"). Elihu counsels Job to trust despite God's perceived absence.

The hiddenness of God (Deus absconditus) is profound theological theme. Isaiah 45:15: "Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself." Yet Psalm 22:24 assures: "He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him." Job experiences God's felt absence, not actual abandonment. Christ endured ultimate God-forsakenness (Mark 15:34) so believers need never be truly abandoned (Hebrews 13:5). Faith trusts God's character when unable to trace His hand (Romans 8:24-25, "hope that is seen is not hope").

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religions offered tangible divine presence through idols and temples. Israel's prohibition of images and experience of exile created crises of divine absence. Prophets addressed this: Hosea's God withdrawing from unfaithful Israel (Hosea 5:6, 15), Isaiah's hidden God (Isaiah 8:17), Jeremiah's absent God

during exile. Yet prophetic faith maintained confidence in covenant faithfulness despite felt absence. This prepared for NT faith: walking by faith, not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How do we maintain faith when God seems absent or silent?
2. What is the difference between God's felt absence and actual abandonment?
3. How does Christ's experience of forsakenness (Mark 15:34) ensure believers are never truly abandoned?

## Interlinear Text

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אַל	אַתָּה	אָמַר	לֹא	תַּשְׁאַרֵּךְ	כִּי	לֹא	פָּנָה	אַל
<b>Although</b>	H3588	<b>thou sayest</b>	H3808	<b>thou shalt not see</b>	H7789	<b>him yet judgment</b>	H1779	<b>is before</b>
H637		H559						H6440
וְתַתְּחִית	וְלֹא							

him therefore trust      H2342

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 9:11** (Parallel theme): Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.