

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־תֹאמַר לֹא תִשׁוּרֶנּוּ, aph ki-tomar lo teshurennu)—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** (דִּין לִפְנֵי, din lephanav) uses din (דִּין, judgment, justice), assuring that God's justice operates despite appearances. The phrase **therefore trust thou in him** (וּתְחַוֵּל לוֹ, utecholel lo) uses chul (חַוֵּל, "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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

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

אַךְ	כִּי	תֹאמַר	לֹא	תִּשׁוּךְ נֹו	יְיָ	לִפְנֵי יוֹ
Although	H3588	thou sayest	H3808	thou shalt not see	him yet judgment	is before
H637		H559		H7789	H1779	H6440
וְתַח וְלֵל	לֹו:					
him therefore trust	H0					
H2342						

Additional Cross-References

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