

Job 36:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?

Analysis

Elihu declares: 'Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?' The verb sagav (שָׁגַב, exalteth) means to be high, inaccessible, or exalted. Koach (חִזֶּק, power) denotes strength or might. The rhetorical question 'who teacheth like him' (mi moreh kamohu, מִי מֹרֶה כָּמָהוּ) uses moreh (מֹרֶה), meaning teacher or instructor. Elihu emphasizes God's unique authority as teacher—His power backs His instruction. The verse anticipates God's speeches where creation itself becomes divine curriculum teaching humanity about wisdom, power, and providence.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom traditions valued human teachers and sages. Elihu transcends this by identifying God as the ultimate teacher whose instruction comes through creation, providence, and direct revelation. The question 'who teacheth like him' prepares for God's pedagogical approach in chapters 38-41—teaching through rhetorical questions about creation rather than propositional statements.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as the ultimate teacher affect our approach to learning and wisdom?
2. What does creation teach us about God that propositional statements alone cannot?

Interlinear Text

מִזְרָחָה כִּמְהוּמָה אֶל בְּכָחָה וַיְשַׁגְּבָה יְהָוָה H2005 Behold God exalteth by his power H410 H7682 H3581 H4310 H3644 H3384 who teacheth

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Romans 13:1 (References God): Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Isaiah 48:17 (References God): Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 14:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

Isaiah 54:13 (Parallel theme): And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Psalms 75:7 (References God): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Psalms 94:10 (Parallel theme): He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

Psalms 94:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Job 35:11 (Parallel theme): Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?

Jeremiah 31:38 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

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