

Job 36:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.

Analysis

Remember that thou magnify his work (זָכֹר כִּי־תִשְׁבֹּחַ אֱלֹהִים, z'kor ki-tasgi po'olo)—Elihu shifts from warning to worship, commanding Job to zakar (remember, recall, commemorate). The verb saga means 'to make great, magnify, exalt'—the same root as gadol (great). God's po'al (work, deed, accomplishment) deserves magnification, not criticism. This anticipates the LORD's speeches (Job 38-41) where God displays His creative works to humble Job into worship.

Which men behold (אֲשֶׁר שָׁרְרוּ אָנָשִׁים, asher ror'ru anashim)—The verb shur (to behold, sing, contemplate) suggests sustained observation leading to praise. Elihu argues that creation itself provides continuous testimony to God's greatness. Humanity's proper response is worship, not complaint. This theme saturates the Psalms: 'The heavens declare the glory of God' (Psalm 19:1). Paul teaches that creation renders all humanity 'without excuse' regarding God's existence and power (Romans 1:20). When suffering tempts us to question God's goodness, contemplating His works in creation and providence should restore perspective.

Historical Context

In wisdom literature, observation of nature provided primary evidence for God's wisdom and power (Proverbs 6:6-8, 30:24-28). Job himself earlier appealed to creation as a teacher (12:7-9). Elihu now uses this same argument, calling Job to let God's works speak louder than his pain.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does deliberately magnifying God's works in creation help combat the distortions suffering creates in our thinking?
2. What specific works of God can you contemplate today that deserve your praise regardless of circumstances?
3. How does the call to 'magnify his work' prepare Job (and us) for God's speeches about creation in chapters 38-41?

Interlinear Text

זְכוֹר	כִּי	תִשְׁבַּח	יְהוָה	אֱשֶׁר	וְ	שָׂרָה	אֲנִישִׁים:
Remember	H3588	that thou magnify	his work	H834		behold	H376
H2142		H7679	H6467			H7891	

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 15:3 (Parallel theme): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Psalms 72:18 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

Luke 1:46 (Parallel theme): And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,