

Job 37:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

Analysis

Elihu concludes: 'Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice, he will not afflict.' This final statement affirms divine justice and power while claiming God doesn't afflict without cause - yet this is precisely what Job's case challenges.

Historical Context

Ancient theodicy insisted on divine justice. Elihu's conclusion is orthodox but the book's resolution shows his understanding was incomplete.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance belief in God's justice with recognition of innocent suffering?
2. What does it mean that we 'cannot find him out'?

Interlinear Text

שָׁדֵךְ	לֹא	מִצְאָנָהוּ	שָׁגֵן	כַּי
Touching the Almighty	H3808	we cannot find him out	he is excellent	in power
H7706		H4672	H7689	H3581
וּמְשֻׁפֵּט	רַב	לֹא אַצְלֵךְ הָ	יְעַנְּהָ	
and in judgment	and in plenty	of justice	he will not afflict	
H4941	H7230	H6666	H6031	

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Psalms 99:4 (Righteousness): The king's strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob.

Job 36:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.

Romans 11:33 (Judgment): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Job 9:4 (Parallel theme): He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 45:21 (Righteousness): Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Job 11:7 (Parallel theme): Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

Ezekiel 18:32 (Parallel theme): For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.