

Job 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.

Analysis

Eliphaz acknowledges Job's past ministry: 'Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.' The Hebrew 'yasar' (instructed/disciplined) and 'chazaq' (strengthened) indicate Job's former role as spiritual counselor. This makes the irony more painful—Job who strengthened others now cannot strengthen himself. Eliphaz will use this to imply hypocrisy, yet Scripture shows that those who minister to others may themselves need ministry (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Historical Context

In ancient wisdom traditions, teachers were expected to embody their own teaching. Eliphaz's reminder of Job's former ministry sets up his later accusation that Job must not have truly believed what he taught.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when trials test the very truths you've taught others?

2. What does Job's inability to strengthen himself teach us about human limitations even in the godly?

Interlinear Text

הָיָה	וְיָצִיטְךָ	רַב־יָמַי	וְיָדַיִם	כַּף־וֹת
H2009	Behold thou hast instructed	many	hands	the weak
	H3256	H7227	H3027	H7504
וְיַחֲזִקְךָ:				
and thou hast strengthened				
H2388				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:3 (Parallel theme): Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Hebrews 12:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

Job 16:5 (Parallel theme): But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.

Proverbs 10:21 (Parallel theme): The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Luke 22:32 (Parallel theme): But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Ephesians 4:29 (Parallel theme): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Deuteronomy 3:28 (Parallel theme): But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.

Luke 22:43 (Parallel theme): And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

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