

Job 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.

Analysis

Eliphaz springs his trap: 'But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.' The Hebrew 'la'ah' (faint) and 'bahal' (troubled/dismayed) accuse Job of failing his own test. Eliphaz's logic is demonic: if Job were truly righteous, he would endure suffering without distress. This denies the legitimacy of lament and human emotion, contradicting Scripture's affirmation that even Jesus wept and was troubled (John 11:33-35).

Historical Context

Ancient stoic philosophy valued emotional suppression as a sign of wisdom. Eliphaz's criticism reflects this mindset, which stands in tension with the biblical legitimacy of lament and honest expression of grief.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to those who view emotional honesty about suffering as lack of faith?

2. In what ways does stoicism masquerade as spirituality in contemporary Christian culture?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹה	עַתָּה	אֵלֶיךָ	וְלֹא	תַּגְעִיל	
H3588	H6258	H935	H413	H3811	H5060
But now it is come			upon thee and thou faintest		it toucheth
וְתַבְעַל	עַד יְמֵינֶךָ				
H5704	H926				
thee and thou art troubled					

Additional Cross-References

Job 19:21 (Parallel theme): Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org