

Job 40:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

Analysis

"Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place." God challenges Job to humble the proud and judge the wicked—divine prerogatives Job cannot exercise. The verbs *hakhni'ehu* (הִכְנִיעֵהוּ, "bring him low/humble him") and *hadokem* (הִדְכֵם, "tread them down") describe decisive judgment. Job protested that God doesn't adequately punish wickedness; God retorts that Job lacks power to do so himself. This teaches that those who cannot remedy injustice should not presume to judge the Judge.

Historical Context

Ancient societies struggled with proud oppressors and unpunished wickedness—problems persisting today. God's challenge taught that only He possesses the wisdom, power, and right to execute perfect justice. Human attempts at comprehensive justice always fail. This would encourage trust in divine justice despite visible injustice.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your inability to execute perfect justice shape your trust in God's timing and methods?
2. What proud people or wicked situations must you entrust to God rather than presuming to judge?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	הַ	אֲזָה	הַכְּנִיעַ	הוּ	וְהִדְּ
Look	H3605	on every one that is proud	and bring him low		and tread down
H7200		H1343	H3665		H1915

תְּחַתֵּם:	רְשָׁעִים
	the wicked
	H8478
	H7563

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:3 (Parallel theme): I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

Malachi 4:3 (Evil): And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.