

Job 40:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

Analysis

"Gird up thy loins now like a man; I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me." God repeats His challenge from 38:3, using the imperative "gird up" (ezor, אָזֵר). The phrase "like a man" (kegever, כְּגֻבָּר) calls Job to stand firm and answer directly. The role reversal continues—God questions, Job must answer. This humbles human pretension to judge divine governance. The repeated challenge suggests Job didn't fully grasp the first speech's implications. God graciously reiterates, pressing Job toward complete submission.

Historical Context

Girding up loins meant gathering one's robe for action—preparing for work, battle, or journey. The image conveyed readiness and resolve. God calls Job to brace himself for serious engagement with divine questions. Ancient readers would recognize this as preparing for a decisive confrontation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to "gird up your loins" when facing God's challenging questions?
2. How do you respond when God reverses roles, questioning you instead of answering your questions?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוָנָן
the LORD and said
H559 H3068
answered Then Job H853 H347

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