

# Job 41:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.

## Analysis

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God asks: 'Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.' The verb qadam (קָדַם, prevented) means to meet, confront, or anticipate—'who has given to me first that I should repay him?' The rhetorical question establishes that God owes nothing to anyone; all creation belongs to Him. The phrase tachat kol-hashamayim li-hu (תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם לִי־הוּא, whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine) asserts absolute divine ownership. Paul quotes this verse in Romans 11:35 when discussing God's sovereign grace. God isn't indebted to creatures; all blessings are grace, not payment owed.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern religions often portrayed gods as needing humans for food, service, or worship. Biblical theology uniquely affirms God's self-sufficiency—He needs nothing from creatures (Psalm 50:10-12, Acts 17:24-25). The question addresses Job's implied claim that his righteousness deserved better treatment. God reframes the issue: even Job's righteousness (genuine as it is) doesn't create divine obligation. All blessing is grace; suffering doesn't violate justice because God owes nothing.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that God owes us nothing change our response to both blessing and suffering?
2. What does divine self-sufficiency teach about the nature of grace versus merit?

## Interlinear Text

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מִי	הַ קִּדְּמֵנִי	וְאַשְׁלֵם	כָּל	תְּחִתָּהּ
H4310	Who hath prevented	me that I should repay	H8478	H3605
	H6923	H7999		
	הַ שָּׁמַיִם	הוּא:	לִי	
	him whatsoever is under the whole heaven	H0	H1931	
	H8064			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 11:35** (Parallel theme): Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

**Psalms 24:1** (Parallel theme): The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

**Job 35:7** (Parallel theme): If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?

**Psalms 50:12** (Parallel theme): If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

**Exodus 19:5** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

**Deuteronomy 10:14** (Parallel theme): Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

**1 Corinthians 10:26** (Parallel theme): For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

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