

Job 42:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

Analysis

"Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me." Job quotes God's earlier challenge (38:3, 40:7) back to Him, acknowledging the role reversal. Previously Job demanded that God answer him; now he recognizes God's right to question him. The repetition demonstrates Job's acceptance of proper order—creature submitting to Creator. This teaches that spiritual maturity involves recognizing and accepting appropriate authority relationships, especially between God and humanity.

Historical Context

Ancient legal and wisdom contexts established clear hierarchies and proper procedures. Job's acknowledgment of reversed roles demonstrated understanding of proper cosmic order. This would teach readers that submitting to rightful authority isn't defeat but wisdom—recognizing reality as it actually exists.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What role reversals has God required in your life, calling you from demanding to submitting?
2. How does accepting God's right to question you without owing explanations bring peace?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמַע	וְנָא	וְאָנֹכִי	אֲדַבֵּר	אֶשְׁאַלְךָ
Hear	H4994	H595	I beseech thee and I will speak	I will demand
H8085			H1696	H7592
וְהוֹדִיעֲנִי:				
of thee and declare				
H3045				

Additional Cross-References

Job 40:7 (Parallel theme): Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

Job 38:3 (Parallel theme): Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.