

Job 42:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Analysis

Job's climax: 'Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' This doesn't repent of supposed sins but of presumption in demanding answers. Job's self-abhorrence reflects proper perspective before divine majesty.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern mourning practices included dust and ashes. Job's posture represents humility and recognition of creaturely limits.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What's the difference between repenting of sin and repenting of presumption?
2. How does encountering God produce self-abhorrence that leads to peace?

Interlinear Text

אַפְרֵן עַפְרָה וְעַל אַמְאָס מִתְנַצֵּעַ אַמְאָס עַל עַל עַפְרֵן

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 9:6 (Parallel theme): And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Job 30:19 (Parallel theme): He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes.

Job 2:8 (Parallel theme): And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Daniel 9:3 (Parallel theme): And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Isaiah 5:5 (Parallel theme): And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

Isaiah 58:5 (Parallel theme): Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

Psalms 51:17 (Parallel theme): The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Job 9:31 (Parallel theme): Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.

Jeremiah 31:19 (Repentance): Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

Matthew 11:21 (Repentance): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org