

Job 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is my strength the strength of stones? or is my flesh of brass?

Analysis

Job continues: 'Is my strength the strength of stones? or is my flesh of brass?' The rhetorical questions emphasize human frailty. Job isn't stone or brass—he's flesh, vulnerable and limited. Eliphaz's exhortations ignore Job's human limitations. This challenges the stoic ideal that the wise should be unmoved by circumstance, instead affirming that embodied humans legitimately feel pain. Reformed anthropology recognizes human frailty while pointing to God's strength perfected in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Historical Context

Stone and brass (bronze) represented maximum durability in ancient materials. Job's denial that he possesses such strength emphasizes his mortality and vulnerability—a countercultural admission in wisdom literature that often idealized the sage's strength.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance acknowledging human frailty with trusting in God's strength?
2. What does Job's admission of weakness teach us about authentic versus pretended spirituality?

Interlinear Text

אִם	כֹּחִי	אֲבִנֵי יָם	כֹּחִי	אִם	בְּשָׁרִי	נְחֹשֶׁת:
H518	Is my strength	of stones	Is my strength	H518	or is my flesh	of brass
	H3581	H68	H3581		H1320	H5153

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