

# Job 6:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?

## Analysis

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Job concludes his defense with two rhetorical questions emphasizing his moral discernment. 'Iniquity in my tongue' (avelah, עַלְהָ) asks whether he has spoken unjustly or falsely. 'Cannot my taste discern perverse things' (chavvah, חַבָּה) uses the metaphor of palate or taste—the ability to distinguish wholesome from corrupt, truth from falsehood. The Hebrew 'taste' (chek, چָקָה) refers to the organ that detects flavor, suggesting Job has a developed moral sense that immediately recognizes evil, just as the tongue detects bitter from sweet. This verse asserts Job's sanctified conscience and moral clarity. Reformed theology affirms that while our conscience can be seared or corrupted by sin (1 Timothy 4:2), the regenerate believer develops increasing discernment through the Spirit and Scripture (Hebrews 5:14). Job's confidence in his moral discernment isn't arrogance but the fruit of his faithful walk with God, established in verse 1:1.

## Historical Context

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The wisdom tradition highly valued the ability to discern good from evil, seeing it as evidence of maturity and divine favor. Proverbs repeatedly emphasizes gaining discernment and understanding. Job's claim to possess this discernment while suffering challenges the assumption that suffering indicates lost wisdom or divine disfavor—a revolutionary perspective in ancient thought.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do we develop the spiritual 'taste' that can immediately discern truth from error, good from evil?
2. What role does a clear conscience play in sustaining faith during unexplained suffering?
3. How can we cultivate Job's confidence in our moral discernment without falling into the trap of trusting our own understanding above Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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בַּשְׁרָם  
Is there      in my tongue      iniquity      H518      cannot my taste      H3808      discern  
H3426      H3956      H5766      H2441      H995

פָּנָזֶת:

perverse things

H1942

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 12:11** (Parallel theme): Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?

**Job 6:6** (Parallel theme): Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

