

Job 6:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Job concludes his defense with two rhetorical questions emphasizing his moral discernment. 'Iniquity in my tongue' (avelah, אֵלַה) asks whether he has spoken unjustly or falsely. 'Cannot my taste discern perverse things' (chavvah, חָוָה) uses the metaphor of palate or taste—the ability to distinguish wholesome from corrupt, truth from falsehood. The Hebrew 'taste' (chek, חֵךְ) 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

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

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

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

הֲיֵשׁ	בְּלִשׁוֹנִי י	עוֹלָה	אִם	חַפִּי	לֹא	יָבִין
Is there	in my tongue	iniquity	H518	cannot my taste	H3808	discern
H3426	H3956	H5766		H2441		H995

הַנְּתִיבִים:

perverse things

H1942

Additional Cross-References

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?

