

Job 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

Analysis

Job's request: 'Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!' The Hebrew 'dakak' (destroy/crush) and 'batsa'" (cut off) are violent terms. Job asks God to finish what He started—to complete his destruction rather than prolonging his agony. The phrase 'let loose his hand' suggests God is restraining His full judgment. Job would prefer swift death to prolonged suffering, yet notably he asks God to do this rather than taking his own life.

Historical Context

Requesting death from deity appears in ancient Near Eastern lament literature as extreme expression of suffering. Job's request follows these patterns while notably maintaining God's sovereignty over life and death.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you understand the difference between wishing for death and pursuing suicide?
2. What does Job's appeal to God for death teach us about maintaining God's sovereignty even in darkest prayers?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאֶלְעֶזֶר	אֱלֹהִים	יְמִינָה	רַעַב	יָדָה
Even that it would please	God	to destroy	me that he would let loose	his hand
H2974	H433	H1792	H5425	H3027
יִבְאַתִּי				
and cut me off				
H1214				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 19:4 (Parallel theme): But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

Jonah 4:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

Jonah 4:8 (References God): And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Revelation 9:6 (Parallel theme): And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Psalms 32:4 (Parallel theme): For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Job 19:21 (References God): Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

Job 14:13 (Parallel theme): O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

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