

# Job 8:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?

## Analysis

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Bildad asks rhetorically: 'Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?' The verb *avat* (אָוַת, pervert) means to twist, distort, or make crooked. *Mishpat* (מִשְׁפָּט, judgment) and *tsedeq* (צֶדֶק, justice) both relate to righteousness and right decisions. Bildad's questions demand negative answers: God cannot pervert justice. This theological truth is unassailable—God is perfectly just. However, Bildad uses this truth to conclude that Job's suffering must be deserved, an invalid inference that confuses divine justice with human understanding of it.

## Historical Context

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Bildad speaks second among the friends, his speech characterized by appeal to tradition and ancestral wisdom (8:8-10). The question about divine justice was central to ancient theodicy. Bildad cannot conceive that the just God might have purposes in suffering beyond retribution. His theology leaves no room for mystery, testing, or purposes hidden from human view.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do we maintain confidence in God's perfect justice while admitting we don't always understand His ways?
2. What is the difference between affirming God's justice and claiming to fully comprehend His judgments?

## Interlinear Text

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|------|-----|----------|-----------|----|----------|--------------|---------|------------|-------|
| לֹא  | הָ  | אֱלֹהִים | מִשְׁפָּט | וְ | אֵלֹהִים | יָשׁוּבִים   | לִפְנֵי | הָאֵלֹהִים |       |
| Doth | God | pervert  | judgment  |    | or doth  | the Almighty | pervert | justice    |       |
| H410 |     | H5791    | H4941     |    |          | H518         | H7706   | H5791      | H6664 |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 32:4** (Righteousness): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

**2 Chronicles 19:7** (References God): Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

**Genesis 18:25** (Righteousness): That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

**Daniel 9:14** (Righteousness): Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.