

Job 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.

Analysis

Job proclaims God's inflexible purpose: 'If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.' The phrase 'will not withdraw' (lo yashub, אַל שׁוּב) means God won't turn back or relent. His 'anger' (aph, אַף, literally 'nostril') remains fixed. The 'proud helpers' (ra'ab, רָאָב, possibly mythological chaos forces or earthly powers) 'stoop' (shachach, שָׁחַח, bow down) beneath God—even the mightiest forces submit to divine power.

Job may reference Rahab (not the harlot, but a mythological sea monster representing chaos—Psalm 89:10, Isaiah 51:9). If even cosmic chaos-forces cannot resist God, how can Job hope to contend? The imagery emphasizes total divine sovereignty. No ally can assist Job against God; no power can moderate divine anger once kindled. Job's situation appears hopeless—the prosecution is irresistible.

Yet Scripture elsewhere shows God does relent—when Christ bears the anger deserved by sinners. The 'proud helpers' that stoop under God are ultimately defeated at the cross (Colossians 2:15). The inflexible divine anger Job experiences finds appeasement in Christ's substitutionary atonement. God's purpose doesn't change, but Christ redirects divine wrath from us to Himself.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation myths featured gods defeating chaos monsters (Tiamat, Leviathan, Rahab). Biblical references to these figures demythologize them—they're not rival deities but creatures under God's control. Job uses this imagery to emphasize that if mythological 'helpers' cannot resist God, neither can he.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's unyielding purpose both terrify (in judgment) and comfort (in promises)?
2. What does the defeat of 'proud helpers' teach about the futility of resisting God's will?
3. In what ways does Christ's bearing of divine anger demonstrate God's purpose to save rather than merely punish?

Interlinear Text

עִזִּים	שְׁחַח	וְתַחַת	אֵפֶר	וְשִׁיבָּה	לֹא	אֵלֶּה
If God	H3808	will not withdraw	his anger	H8478	do stoop	helpers
H433	H7725		H639		H7817	H5826

רַבָּבָן

the proud

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:7 (Parallel theme): For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.

Job 26:12 (Parallel theme): He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

Psalms 89:10 (Parallel theme): Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.

Isaiah 51:9 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

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