

# Job 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him?

## Analysis

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Job laments: 'How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him?' Job recognizes his inability to argue legally with God. The verb anah (אָנָה, answer) means to respond or testify. Job desires vindication but acknowledges the impossibility of presenting a case before infinite wisdom and power. This humble recognition of creaturely limitation contrasts with his bold protests of innocence—Job both asserts his righteousness and admits he cannot prove it before God without help.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern legal customs inform Job's language. In disputes, parties presented their cases before judges who rendered verdicts. Job desires such a legal proceeding with God but realizes the impossibility—no human can successfully argue against omniscience. This dilemma intensifies Job's longing for a mediator (9:33), foreshadowing Christ's role as advocate (1 John 2:1).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Job's recognition of his inability to argue with God lead him toward seeking a mediator?
2. What does this verse teach about appropriate humility before God while still maintaining our innocence?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹאמֶר אֶל־אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה אֲמֹתָה אֶל־אַתָּה אֲמֹתָה  
H637 H3588 H595 How much less shall I answer him and choose out my words  
H6030 H977 H1697

לֹאמֶר

H5973

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