

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

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

אֶיךָ	יְיָ	אֶנֶכִּי	אֶעֱנֶה	וְאֶבְחַרְהוּ	דְּבַר
H637	H3588	H595	H6030	H977	H1697
			How much less shall I answer	him and choose out	my words
עָמַלְתִּי					
H5973					

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