

Job 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say,
I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

Analysis

Job's self-aware statement 'If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me' reveals the impossibility of self-vindication. The mouth that speaks defense becomes the instrument of judgment - a profound recognition that human words ultimately fail before divine truth. Only God can vindicate.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom valued self-examination, but Job goes deeper by acknowledging that even self-knowledge is limited. The tongue's double nature (defense/condemnation) appears throughout Scripture (James 3:9-10).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When have your words of self-defense actually condemned you?
2. How does Christ's advocacy replace your need for self-justification?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר אֶצְלָן אָמַר

H518

If I justify

myself mine own mouth

H6663

גַּם

H6310

יְרַשְׁעֵךְ נִ

shall condemn

me if I say I am perfect

H8535

אָנָּא נִ

תִּשְׁלַחֲנֵי

H589

it shall also prove me perverse

H6140

Additional Cross-References

Job 34:35 (Parallel theme): Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words were without wisdom.

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