

Job 9:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.

Analysis

I am afraid of all my sorrows (יָגַר תִּי, יָגָר תִּי כָּל-עֲבָתִי) —Job's attempted self-comfort (v. 27) fails because fear grips him. The verb 'am afraid' (yagor, יָגַר) means to dread or be terrified. 'Sorrows' (atzvot, עֲבָתִים) means pains, hardships, or griefs—the comprehensive suffering crushing Job. He fears not merely present pain but future sorrows God might inflict.

I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent (יָדַעְתִּי כִּי לֹא תִּנְקַהֵנִי) reveals Job's theological crisis. The verb 'know' (yada, יָדַע) indicates certainty, not speculation. 'Hold me innocent' (naqah, נִקָּה) means to acquit, declare guiltless, or vindicate. Job is convinced God will not declare him righteous despite his actual innocence (testified by God Himself in 1:8). This contradiction—knowing he's innocent yet convinced God won't vindicate him—drives Job's anguish. The New Testament answers this cry: Christ is our vindication, bearing condemnation so God can declare believers righteous (Romans 8:33-34).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religion operated on a retribution principle: righteousness brings blessing, sin brings suffering. Job's suffering with God refusing vindication shattered this paradigm. His friends cling to the old framework, insisting Job must be guilty. Job knows better—he's innocent yet suffers, exposing the inadequacy of simplistic retribution theology. This theological crisis anticipates the gospel: Christ the innocent one suffered, demonstrating that suffering doesn't prove guilt.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Job's cry for vindication prepare us to understand Christ's work declaring us righteous despite our actual guilt?
2. What comfort can believers find when, like Job, they suffer despite living righteously?

Interlinear Text

ל א כ י י ד ע ת י ע אכ ב ת י כ ל י ג ר ת י	H3605	of all my sorrows	H3588	H3808
I am afraid	H3025		I know	H3045

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:120 (Parallel theme): My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Psalms 130:3 (Parallel theme): If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

Job 10:14 (Parallel theme): If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.

Job 21:6 (Parallel theme): Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.

Job 3:25 (Parallel theme): For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

Job 9:2 (Parallel theme): I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?

Job 7:21 (Parallel theme): And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

Job 14:16 (Parallel theme): For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

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