

Job 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.

Analysis

Job acknowledges that if a man would 'contend with him' (God), 'he could not answer him one of a thousand.' This recognition of God's infinite wisdom versus human limitation establishes the impossibility of winning a legal case against the Almighty. Yet Job continues to seek audience, revealing faith that persists despite rational futility.

Historical Context

Legal imagery permeates Job, reflecting ancient Near Eastern court procedures. Job's acknowledgment of asymmetrical power doesn't end his suit but grounds it in realistic assessment of God's sovereignty.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you approach God when you know you can't 'win' an argument?
2. What motivates prayer when rational odds seem impossible?

Interlinear Text

אִם	יִּהְיֶה	לְרִיב	עִמִּי	לֹא	יִשְׁעַן	נֹכַח	אֵלֹהִים	אֶחָד
H518	If he will	contend	H5973	H3808	with him he cannot answer	him one	H4480	
	H2654	H7378			H6030	H259		
אֶלְפֵּי:								
of a thousand								
H505								

Additional Cross-References

Job 10:2 (Parallel theme): I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me.

Job 40:2 (Parallel theme): Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

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