

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

מִנְיָם אָמַת תְּנִתֵּן
H518 If he will contend H5973 H3808 with him he cannot answer H4480
H2654 H7378 H6030 H259

אֶלְף:

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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