

Job 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.

Analysis

Job cries: 'For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.' The fundamental problem is ontological difference: God is not enosh (אֱנוֹשׁ, mortal man). The phrase 'come together in judgment' (navo yachdav ba-mishpat, נָבוֹא יְחִידָה בְּמִשְׁפָּט) envisions legal proceeding between equals, impossible between Creator and creature. This verse articulates the incarnation's necessity: only a God-man can bridge the infinite gap between divine and human. Job's longing points toward Christ, fully God and fully man.

Historical Context

Ancient legal systems required approximate equality between parties. Job recognizes that God's infinity makes standard legal proceedings impossible. The verse's tragic tone expresses Job's dilemma: he needs vindication but faces an unbridgeable gap. Early church fathers saw this as foreshadowing Christ's mediatorial role—the incarnation provides what Job lacked.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Job's longing for God to be a man illuminate the necessity and wonder of the incarnation?
2. What does this verse teach about why Christ had to be both fully God and fully man to mediate between God and humanity?

Interlinear Text

אָנֹכִי	אַנְתָּךְ	כִּי	אַנְתָּךְ	אַנְתָּךְ	אַנְתָּךְ
H3588	H3808	For he is not a man	H3644	as I am that I should answer	H6030
	H376				
וְאַנְתָּךְ	וְאַנְתָּךְ	בְּמִשְׁפָּט	בְּמִשְׁפָּט		
him and we should come	together	in judgment			
H935	H3162	H4941			

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 6:10 (Parallel theme): That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

Romans 9:20 (Parallel theme): Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Psalms 143:2 (Judgment): And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?