

Job 9:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.

Analysis

Then would I speak, and not fear him (אֲדַבֵּר וְלֹא אֶיִרָאֵנוּ, adab'rah v'lo ira'ennu) —Job longs for conditions allowing honest dialogue with God without terror. The verb 'speak' (dabar, דָּבַר) implies reasoned discourse, not mere complaint. 'Not fear him' (lo ira, לֹא אֶיִרָאֵנוּ) expresses desire for conversation without dread. Job wants a courtroom where he can present his case without intimidation.

But it is not so with me (כִּי לֹא־כֵן אֲנֹכִי עִמָּדִי, ki lo-khen anokhi immadi) acknowledges present reality: such conditions don't exist. The phrase 'it is not so' (lo-khen, לֹא־כֵן) means 'not thus' or 'not in this manner.' Job desires a mediator—someone to stand between him and God (9:33: 'Neither is there any daysman betwixt us'). This cry anticipates Christ as mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus makes possible what Job longed for: speaking to God without terror because our mediator has borne judgment. Hebrews 4:16 fulfills Job's desire: 'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy.'

Historical Context

Ancient legal systems required plaintiffs to present cases before judges, but approaching deity was fraught with danger—no one could see God and live (Exodus 33:20). Job's dilemma was theological: how can mortals contend with the Almighty? Ancient Near Eastern religion offered no solution—gods were distant, capricious, unapproachable. Job's cry for a mediator (9:33, 16:19, 19:25) prepared Israel to recognize Christ, the one mediator between God and humans.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's mediation fulfill Job's longing to speak with God without fear?
2. In what ways do believers still struggle with approaching God boldly despite having Christ as mediator?

Interlinear Text

אָ, וְדַבַּרְהָ	וְלֹא	אִי־יִרְאֶה נֹו	כִּי	לֹא	יִי	אֶנֶכִּי	עֲמִידִי:
Then would I speak	H3808	and not fear	H3588	H3808	H3651	H595	H5978
H1696		H3372					

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