

Isaiah 38:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

Analysis

The metaphor "Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent" depicts life's fragility—tents easily fold and move. The weaving imagery "I have cut off like a weaver my life" shows life as a tapestry prematurely severed from the loom. "He will cut me off from the pining loom" uses divine passive—God controls life and death. The phrase "from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me" expresses how quickly death can come. These vivid metaphors emphasize life's brevity and divine sovereignty over its duration.

Historical Context

Shepherds lived in temporary tents, easily packed and moved. Weaving was common domestic activity, making the metaphor accessible to all listeners.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do life's fragility and brevity teach us to number our days wisely?
2. What does acknowledging God's sovereignty over life's duration mean for our daily living?
3. How should awareness that each day is a gift affect our priorities and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

רֹעֵה	כִּאֵל	מֵבָבָה	וְנִגְלַת	הַנֶּסֶת	עַד	דָּוָת	וְ
Mine age	is departed	and is removed		H4480	tent	from me as a shepherd's	
H1755	H5265	H1540		H168		H7473	
וְ	קָרֵב	אֲגַם	מִתְּנִזְלָת	הַ	מִתְּנִזְלָת	בְּאָמָר	תִּ
I have cut off	like a weaver	my life	with pining sickness	he will cut me off			
H7088	H707	H2416	H1803	H1214			
תְּשַׁלִּימָנִי	לְיְלָה	עַד	מֵי	וּמִ			
from day	H5704	even to night	wilt thou make an end				
H3117		H3915	H7999				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 1:12 (Parallel theme): And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Psalms 73:14 (Parallel theme): For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.