

Job 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Analysis

Job laments: 'Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.' The phrase 'born of a woman' (yelud ishah, יֵלֹד אִשָּׁה) emphasizes human frailty and mortality. 'Few days' (qetsar yamim, קֶצֶר יָמִים) stresses life's brevity. 'Full of trouble' (seva rogez, שְׁבַע־רָגַז) uses rogez (רָגַז), meaning turmoil, agitation, or distress. Job's description of human existence as brief and troubled reflects the curse's effects (Genesis 3:16-19). Christ echoes this phrase when calling Himself 'the Son of Man' (bar enash, בֶּר אָנָשׁ), identifying with human frailty.

Historical Context

The patriarchal period saw lifespans of 100-200 years (Job likely lived 200+), yet Job still considers life brief compared to eternity. Ancient Near Eastern literature frequently lamented mortality's brevity and suffering's prevalence. The Epic of Gilgamesh explores similar themes. Job's lament is both universal (all humans face death and trouble) and personal (his suffering intensifies awareness of human frailty).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing life's brevity and trouble affect our priorities and perspective?
2. What comfort does Christ's identification as 'Son of Man' bring to our experience of human frailty?

Interlinear Text

אָדֹם	יֵלֵד	אִשָּׁה	קָצָר	יָמֵי	שָׂבַע	רָגַז:
Man	that is born	of a woman	is of few	days	and full	of trouble
H120	H3205	H802	H7116	H3117	H7649	H7267

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:7 (Parallel theme): Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 25:4 (Parallel theme): How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

Ecclesiastes 2:23 (Parallel theme): For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

Job 7:1 (Parallel theme): Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

Psalms 51:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Job 7:6 (Parallel theme): My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

Job 15:14 (Parallel theme): What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Job 9:25 (Parallel theme): Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.

Genesis 47:9 (Parallel theme): And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

Psalms 39:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah.

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