

Job 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.

Analysis

Water's power to wear away stone illustrates relentless erosion: 'The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth.' Patient, persistent water eventually wears down hard rock—a process Job observes in wadis and rivers. Similarly, suffering gradually erodes human hope and strength. The imagery is both natural observation and spiritual metaphor: persistent trials wear down even strong faith without divine intervention.

Historical Context

Palestine's seasonal floods and wadis demonstrated water's erosive power. Ancient observers noted how flowing water could reshape landscapes, carving valleys and wearing smooth hard stones—processes modern geology confirms occur over long time periods.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do persistent trials wear down faith, and what resources does God provide to prevent spiritual erosion?
2. When have you experienced the patient wearing-down of hope that Job describes?
3. What is the difference between faith eroded by trials and faith refined through them?

Interlinear Text

אֲבָנֵי יָם	שֶׁ יִקְוֶה	מֵי יָם	תִּשְׁטָף	סְפִיחַ יֵה
the stones	wear	The waters	thou wastest away	the things which grow
H68	H7833	H4325	H7857	H5599
עֹפָר	אֶרֶץ	וְתִקְוָה	אִם וְשֶׁ	הָאֲבִדָה:
out of the dust	of the earth	the hope	of man	and thou destroyest
H6083	H776	H8615	H582	H6

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