

Job 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Analysis

Job describes humanity: 'He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.' The double metaphor (flower/shadow) emphasizes life's brevity and insubstantiality. This melancholic wisdom anticipates New Testament teaching on life's fragility (James 4:14).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern poetry frequently used flower imagery for transience (Psalm 103:15-16, Isaiah 40:6-8). Job's observation reflects universal human awareness of mortality.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does life's brevity change your priorities?
2. What hope exists beyond the shadow and flower of mortal existence?

Interlinear Text

בָּאֵץ	וְצָא	וְצָא ל	זָבֵךְ	זָבֵךְ ל	כַּא ל	כַּא א
like a flower	He cometh forth	and is cut down	he fleeth	also as a shadow		H3808

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and continueth

H5975

Additional Cross-References

Job 8:9 (Parallel theme): (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow:)

1 Peter 1:24 (Parallel theme): For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

1 Chronicles 29:15 (Parallel theme): For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

James 4:14 (Parallel theme): Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Psalms 144:4 (Parallel theme): Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.

Psalms 102:11 (Parallel theme): My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.

Psalms 92:7 (Parallel theme): When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

Psalms 92:12 (Parallel theme): The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Ecclesiastes 8:13 (Parallel theme): But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

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