

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

Psalms 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

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|---------|
| כָּצֵי יוֹ | יֵצֵא | וַיִּכָּרֵם | וַיִּבְרַח | כַּצֵּל | לֹא אֵל |
| like a flower | He cometh forth | and is cut down | he fleeth | also as a shadow | H3808 |
| H6731 | H3318 | H5243 | H1272 | H6738 | |
| וַיַּמְּחֵם: | | | | | |
| 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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org