

# Job 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;

## Analysis

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**Though the root thereof wax old in the earth** (יִזְקִין בְּאֶרֶץ שָׁרֶשׁוֹ, yazqin baaretz shorsho)—Job describes a tree whose root (שָׁרֶשׁ, shoresh) grows old (יִזְקִין, zaqen), seemingly dead. **And the stock thereof die in the ground** (גֵּזַא, geza, 'stump/stock')—the visible trunk dies, appearing completely lifeless. Yet this apparent death sets up verse 9's resurrection imagery. Job uses botanical observation to explore whether humans, unlike trees, have hope beyond death.

The tree metaphor runs throughout Scripture: Psalm 1's righteous person is 'like a tree planted by rivers of water,' and Jeremiah 17:8 describes the blessed person as a tree that 'shall not see when heat cometh.' Job reverses this—he envisions not the flourishing tree but the dead tree, asking if it can revive. This anticipates Christian resurrection theology. Jesus Himself uses the metaphor: 'Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit' (John 12:24). Job gropes toward resurrection hope that only Christ fully reveals.

## Historical Context

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Job speaks during his personal lament (Job 14:1-22), contrasting human mortality with nature's renewal. Ancient Near Eastern peoples observed trees that appeared dead in dry seasons yet revived with rain. Job's patriarchal setting (approximately 2000-1800 BC) predates explicit Old Testament resurrection theology (which emerges in Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19), yet he intuitively grasps the question of

afterlife. His botanical metaphor becomes foundational for later biblical resurrection imagery.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When have you felt spiritually 'dead' like an old tree root, and did you experience renewal?
2. How does observing nature's cycles of death and rebirth inform your hope in resurrection?
3. What does Job's question about trees reviving teach about universal human longing for life beyond death?

## Interlinear Text

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אִם	יָזַק יוֹן	בְּאֶרֶץ	שָׁרֵשׁ ו	וּ בְעֶפֶר ר	יָמ וְת
H518	thereof wax old	in the earth	Though the root	in the ground	thereof die
	H2204	H776	H8328	H6083	H4191
	גִּזְעוֹ:				
	and the stock				
	H1503				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 15:36** (Parallel theme): Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: