

Job 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth
boughs like a plant.

Analysis

Yet through the scent of water it will bud (מֵרֵיחַ מַיִם יִפְרֹחַ, mereach mayim yafriach)—the 'scent' or 'fragrance' (רֵיחַ, reach) of water causes the seemingly dead tree to sprout (פָּרַח, parach, 'bud/blossom/flourish'). The poetic 'scent of water' suggests even minimal moisture—morning dew, distant rainfall—triggers resurrection. **And bring forth boughs like a plant** (קָצִיר, qatzir, 'harvest/branch')—the dead stump produces new growth like a freshly planted tree.

Job's observation is botanically accurate: many trees, especially in Mediterranean climates, can regenerate from seemingly dead roots. But theologically, he asks: do humans have similar hope? His question receives its answer in Christ's resurrection. The 'scent of water' foreshadows the Holy Spirit's life-giving work—Jesus promises 'living water' (John 4:10), and Paul describes resurrection bodies as seeds planted (1 Corinthians 15:35-44). What Job observes in nature, Christians experience spiritually: regeneration through the Spirit's water (Titus 3:5, John 3:5) and physically through bodily resurrection.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples living close to the land observed seasonal vegetation cycles more keenly than modern urban populations. In Palestine's climate, the contrast between summer drought and winter rain was dramatic—trees appearing completely dead would suddenly sprout. Job's metaphor would resonate powerfully

with agricultural audiences. His question about human resurrection anticipates later biblical revelation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'scent of water'—small sign of grace—has triggered spiritual renewal in your dried-up soul?
2. How does Christ's resurrection answer Job's question about whether humans can revive like trees?
3. In what areas of life do you need to trust that God can bring new growth from apparent death?

Interlinear Text

יְמֵי יֶחֱ	מֵי מַיִם	יִפְרֹחַ	וְעָשָׂה	קִצְ יֵרֹ	כְּמוֹ
Yet through the scent	of water	it will bud	and bring forth	boughs	H3644
H7381	H4325	H6524	H6213	H7105	
נֶטֶעַ:					
like a plant					
H5194					