

Job 15:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.

Analysis

Judgment arrives suddenly: 'He shall not see his branch, neither shall his offspring spring up as grass.' The wicked won't see descendants flourish—cutting off posterity represented ultimate curse in ancient Israel. Loss of lineage meant loss of future, inheritance, and memory. Eliphaz implies Job's loss of children proves divine judgment. This cruel logic ignores that the righteous also sometimes lose children, and that Job's losses came through Satan's attack, not divine displeasure.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued posterity highly—descendants represented blessing, continuation, and honor. Dying childless or losing all children indicated curse (Deuteronomy 28:18). This cultural value makes Eliphaz's accusation particularly cruel.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we comfort those who've lost children without implying their loss indicates divine displeasure?
2. What does Gospel hope offer to those without biological descendants?
3. How does eternal family in Christ transform our understanding of posterity and legacy?

Interlinear Text

בְּעִתָּה: לֹא יְכַפֵּת יְמִין לְאַתְּ תִּפְלֵל אֵת
before his time It shall be accomplished and his branch before shall not be green
H3808 H3117 H4390 H3712 H3808 H7488

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 7:17 (Parallel theme): Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Job 22:16 (Parallel theme): Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood:

Psalms 55:23 (Parallel theme): But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.