

# Job 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm,  
Thou art my mother, and my sister.

## Analysis

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'I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister.' Job's dark poetry addresses 'corruption' (תַּחַת, lashachat—the pit, decay) as father and 'worm' (לַרְמָה, larimmah) as mother and sister. This inverts family intimacy—instead of human relationships, Job claims kinship with decay. It's both gallows humor and genuine despair. Death and decay are his only remaining 'family.' Yet even here, speaking to corruption and worms, Job maintains speech. Faith survives even when reduced to conversing with death. This anticipates Christ who descended to corruption's domain yet emerged victorious. Job's dark poetry expresses faith's refusal to stay silent even in death's shadow.

## Historical Context

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Ancient burial practices involved decomposition awareness. Job's imagery would resonate as accepting death's physical reality while also serving as metaphor for complete abandonment—his only 'family' is the grave.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do we maintain faith when death and decay seem our only companions?
2. What does it mean that faith continues speaking even when addressing corruption?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַרְתִּי לְשֵׁם כְּתַתְּךָ אָבִי אָמַרְתִּי אָמַרְתִּי  
to corruption I have said Thou art my father H859 Thou art my mother  
H7845 H7121 H1 H517

לְרָפָה: אָחֶתְּךָ  
and my sister to the worm  
H269 H7415

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 16:10** (Parallel theme): For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

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