

# 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' (לִשְׁחָת, lashachat—the pit, decay) as father and 'worm' (לַרִּמָּה, 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 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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לִשְׁחַת	קֵץ רֵאִתִּי	אָבִי	אָתָּה	אִמִּי
to corruption	I have said	Thou art my father	H859	Thou art my mother
H7845	H7121	H1		H517
וְאֶחָתִי	לְרֶמָּה:			
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.