

Job 18:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.

Analysis

The wicked wither completely: 'His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.' Both root and branch dying suggests total destruction—no life remains to regenerate. This agricultural imagery depicts complete judgment. While Scripture teaches such comprehensive judgment awaits the finally impenitent, Bildad wrongly applies it to Job. Job's story demonstrates that apparent withering can precede miraculous restoration.

Historical Context

Ancient Palestinian agriculture made plant death vivid—drought could kill trees completely, roots and branches. The imagery of dried roots and cut branches represented absolute end. Yet even this has gospel dimension—only being grafted into Christ prevents such withering (John 15, Romans 11).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does being grafted into Christ prevent the spiritual withering that awaits those outside Him?
2. What is the difference between temporary suffering and permanent judgment?
3. How does Job's restoration demonstrate that apparent withering need not be final?

Interlinear Text

חַת	יֹשֵׁב	יָבֹשׁ	וּמִמֶּנִּי	לִי
H8478	His roots	shall be dried up	beneath and above	be cut off
	H8328	H3001	H4605	H5243

קָצִירָו:
shall his branch
H7105

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 9:16 (Parallel theme): Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb.

Isaiah 5:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Job 15:30 (Parallel theme): He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.

Amos 2:9 (Parallel theme): Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.

Malachi 4:1 (Parallel theme): For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Job 29:19 (Parallel theme): My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.

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