

Job 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

Analysis

'He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.' The imagery: God 'destroyed' (בָּתַע, yittetseri—broke down, demolished) Job on 'every side' (סְבִיב, saviv—all around), so 'I am gone' (אָלָג, va'elekh—I depart/perish), and 'hope' (תִּקְוָתִי, tiqvati) uprooted 'like a tree' (עֵץ, ka'ets). Trees uprooted die. Job feels hope destroyed at the root. Yet paradoxically, chapter 14:7 noted trees can sprout again—perhaps unconscious hope persists. This metaphor appears throughout Scripture (Jeremiah 1:10, Psalm 52:5). The violence of uprooting captures the totality of devastation. Yet Job's continued speech and eventual restoration prove hope has deeper roots than Job realizes. Christ is the true root (Isaiah 11:1, Revelation 5:5, 22:16).

Historical Context

Trees symbolized life, stability, and continuity. Uprooting destroyed all of this. Job uses this agricultural imagery to describe the comprehensive destruction of his life and hope.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does hope survive when it feels completely uprooted?
2. What does Christ as our root mean for enduring devastation?

Interlinear Text

וְתִצְצַצֵּבְנִי
He hath destroyed me on every side H1980
H5422 H5439

וְעָזָבָהּ
hath he removed like a tree H6086
H5265 H6086

וְלֹא־תִּתְּנִזְנֵן
and mine hope
H8615

Additional Cross-References

Job 24:20 (Parallel theme): The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.

Job 12:14 (Parallel theme): Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.