

# Job 22:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was  
overflown with a flood:

## Analysis

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**Which were cut down out of time** (אֶשְׁרֵי־קָמְטוּ וְלֹא־עֵת)—Qummetu (cut down/seized) describes premature death; lo-et (not their time) emphasizes untimely destruction. Eliphaz clearly references the Flood generation (Genesis 6-7), whose lives were cut short by divine judgment.

**Whose foundation was overflown with a flood** (יִסּוּדָם נָהָר יוּצֵאֵק)—Yessodam (their foundation) represents life's stability; nahar yutsaq (river poured out) vividly pictures the waters overwhelming earth's foundations. Eliphaz uses the Flood as history's supreme example of retribution theology: total wickedness brought total destruction. The implication for Job is clear but false—your suffering proves you're like them. This ignores Genesis 6:9's crucial detail: 'Noah found grace,' proving the righteous sometimes suffer alongside the wicked without being guilty.

## Historical Context

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The Flood narrative was well-known in ancient Near Eastern literature (Gilgamesh Epic, Atrahasis). For Israelites, it represented God's justice against universal corruption. Eliphaz weaponizes this shared cultural memory to condemn Job, missing the Flood's actual lesson about grace (Noah) and God's patience (2 Peter 3:9).

## 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 does Eliphaz's use of the Flood narrative ignore the key detail of Noah's righteousness being preserved through judgment?
2. What does this passage teach about the danger of proof-texting history to support predetermined theological conclusions?
3. How might God's purpose in suffering be completely different from what observers assume based on retribution theology?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	קָטְטוּ וְ	וְלֹא	עַתָּה	בְּהֵרָא	יִצֹּף קִי
H834	Which were cut down	H3808	out of time	with a flood	was overflowed
	H7059		H6256	H5104	H3332
וְסוֹדָם:					
whose foundation					
H3247					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 15:32** (Parallel theme): It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.

**2 Peter 2:5** (Parallel theme): And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

**Genesis 7:11** (Parallel theme): In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

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