

Job 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, and as the stream of brooks they pass away;

Analysis

Job accuses his friends: 'My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, and as the stream of brooks they pass away.' A wadi (seasonal stream) flows during rain but dries up when needed most. Job's friends seemed supportive initially (2:11-13) but now, when he most needs comfort, they've dried up—offering only accusations. The Hebrew 'bagad' (dealt deceitfully/treacherously) is strong language, suggesting betrayal. This warns against fair-weather friendship that fails in crisis.

Historical Context

Wadis in the ancient Near East could be raging torrents during rainy season but completely dry during summer when water was most needed. Job's metaphor perfectly captures the disappointment of friends who fail when most needed.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against being a 'wadi friend' who's only supportive when it costs nothing?

2. When have you experienced the betrayal of friends who dried up when you needed them most?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָי	בָּגַדוּ	כְּמוֹ	נָחַל יָם	כְּאֶפְיָן	נָחַל יָם
My brethren	have dealt deceitfully	H3644	as a brook	and as the stream	as a brook
H251	H898		H5158	H650	H5158
יַעֲבֹרוּ:					
they pass away					
H5674					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:11 (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Jeremiah 15:18 (Parallel theme): Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

Psalms 41:9 (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 16:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

John 13:18 (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.