

Job 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.

Analysis

Job describes the consequences: 'The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.' Travelers who rely on deceptive wadis are led astray and die. The Hebrew 'arach' (paths/caravans) suggests groups led to destruction by following unreliable guides. Job's friends are such guides—their theological counsel leads to 'nothing' (Hebrew 'tohu'—waste/emptiness, the same word describing pre-creation chaos in Genesis 1:2). False theology produces spiritual death, not life.

Historical Context

Caravans that followed false guides or relied on dry wadis could indeed perish in the desert. Job's extension of the metaphor warns that his friends' counsel is not just unhelpful but actively dangerous.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you identify counsel that leads to 'nothing' versus counsel that leads to life?
2. What responsibility do counselors have when their advice could lead others to spiritual death?

Interlinear Text

וְלִפְתּוֹ	אֲרֻחַ וְתִ	וְדֶרֶךְ	וְיֵלֵךְ	בְּתִי הִי	וְיִאָּבֵדוּ:
are turned aside	The paths	of their way	they go	to nothing	and perish
H3943	H734	H1870	H5927	H8414	H6

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