

Job 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They were confounded because they had hoped; they came thither, and were ashamed.

Analysis

Job concludes: 'They were confounded because they had hoped: they came thither, and were ashamed.' The Hebrew 'bosh' (confounded/ashamed) and 'chapher' (ashamed/disappointed) emphasize the humiliation of misplaced hope. The caravans' confidence in the streams led to deadly disappointment. Job feels similarly about his friends—he hoped in their comfort but received accusations instead. This warns against putting ultimate hope in human counsel rather than God, who never disappoints those who hope in Him (Romans 5:5).

Historical Context

Shame in ancient Near Eastern culture was particularly associated with misplaced confidence that led to failure. The caravans' shame would be compounded by their previous confidence in knowing where water could be found.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you process the shame and disappointment when human help fails?

2. What distinguishes hope in God that never disappoints from misplaced hope in human helpers?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׂר

כִּי

בְּנֵי

בְּנֵי

עַלְיָהָם

They were confounded

H3588

because they had hoped

H982

they came

H935

H5704

H954

תִּחְפְּרָה

thither and were ashamed

H2659

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