

Job 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?

Analysis

Bildad claims ancestors 'shall teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart.' Three verbs intensify: 'teach' (yarah, יָרָה), 'tell' (amar, אָמַר), and 'utter' (yatsa, יָצָא, bring forth). The phrase 'out of their heart' (mil-libbam, מִלִּבָּם) suggests authenticity—these aren't mere repetitions but wisdom from deep understanding. Bildad presents tradition as living voice of authoritative truth.

Ironically, Bildad's appeal to the fathers will prove inadequate—the very ancestors he cites didn't possess full revelation that later Scripture provides. Moreover, God Himself will later declare Bildad's words incorrect (42:7). Tradition's value depends on its fidelity to revelation, not its antiquity. This illustrates the danger of sola traditio (tradition alone) versus sola scriptura (Scripture alone)—tradition must be tested by the Word.

The New Testament pattern shows apostles honoring Old Testament Scripture while providing authoritative new revelation through Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2). The church's tradition matters (2 Thessalonians 2:15) but remains subordinate to Scripture. Bildad's error wasn't honoring the fathers but failing to test their teaching against God's self-revelation.

Historical Context

Oral tradition dominated ancient Near Eastern education. The 'fathers' refers to multiple generations of accumulated wisdom (Proverbs 1:8, 4:1). However, Job

introduces new revelation that corrects inadequate traditional formulations—a pattern repeated when prophets challenged prevailing consensus and ultimately when Christ fulfilled and transcended Old Covenant understanding.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do Reformed confessions and catechisms rightly function as subordinate standards under Scripture's ultimate authority?
2. What criteria should we use to evaluate which traditional teachings to maintain versus which to revise in light of Scripture?
3. In what ways does Bildad's mistake warn against elevating systematic theology over exegetical theology?

Interlinear Text

הֵם הֵלֵא	יִּוְרוּךְ	יִּאמְרוּ	לֹא	וּמִלֵּבָם
H3808	H1992	H3384	H559	H0
	Shall not they teach	thee and tell		out of their heart
				H3820
יִוְצֵ אוֹ	מִלִּים:			
H3318	H4405			
thee and utter	words			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 18:15 (Parallel theme): The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

