

Job 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.

Analysis

Bildad describes the hypocrite's false security: 'Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.' The verb 'cut off' (qut, עָזַב) means to sever or loathe—the hypocrite's hope is both severed and contemptible. The comparison to 'spider's web' (bayit akkabish, בֵּית עַקְבָּשׁ, literally 'spider's house') is vivid: intricate, impressive-looking, but utterly fragile and unable to bear weight. Touch it, and it collapses.

The spider's web metaphor appears elsewhere in Scripture (Isaiah 59:5-6) representing works that cannot save. The web may appear substantial, carefully constructed through the spider's effort, but provides no real security. Similarly, trust in anything besides God—ritual, morality, heritage, wealth—resembles the spider's web: impressive but insubstantial when testing comes.

The Reformed doctrine of sola fide (faith alone) finds illustration here: trust in works, tradition, or self-righteousness cannot support us before God. Only Christ's finished work provides security that endures. Bildad correctly identifies false trust's inadequacy but tragically assumes Job's trust is the spider's web rather than recognizing Job's genuine faith in God despite suffering.

Historical Context

Spiders and their webs were common in ancient Near Eastern dwellings. The web's combination of intricate construction and extreme fragility made it natural

metaphor for false security. Ancient builders would clear webs from corners, illustrating how easily impressive-appearing structures collapse.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What modern equivalents to the spider's web—impressive but insubstantial securities—tempt Christians to trust?
2. How does the spider's web metaphor illustrate the difference between trusting our faith (the web) versus trusting God (the solid rock)?
3. In what ways can we examine whether our hope rests on Christ alone or includes spider's web additions?

Interlinear Text

מִבְטָחוֹן: עַכְבָּרִישׁ וּבְיִתְכַּסֵּל וְאַל וְאַשְׁר
H834 shall be cut off H3689 Whose hope H1004 web H5908 shall be a spider's H4009 and whose trust
H6990 H3689 H1004 H5908 H4009

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