

# Job 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.

## Analysis

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Bildad continues: 'He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.' The verbs escalate: 'lean' (sha'an, שָׁאַן) suggests initial trust, 'hold fast' (chazaq, חָזַק) implies desperate clinging when the initial trust proves inadequate. The house symbolizes whatever security the hypocrite builds—reputation, wealth, family, religion. Despite attempts to strengthen it, 'it shall not stand' (amad, עָמַד) nor 'endure' (qum, עַמּוֹד).

The imagery anticipates Jesus' parable of houses built on rock versus sand (Matthew 7:24-27). The storm reveals foundation quality—one house stands, the other falls spectacularly. Bildad correctly identifies the principle: false foundations cannot bear weight. His error is assuming Job's house is sand-built rather than rock-founded. God's later vindication will prove Job's foundation solid despite the storm's ferocity.

The Reformed understanding of security rests in union with Christ—"built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). No storm can destroy what God builds. Bildad's theology lacks this Christological center, substituting moral performance for covenant security.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern architecture varied in quality. Wealthy built with stone; poor used mud brick that required constant maintenance. A house's ability to withstand storms revealed its construction quality. Bildad's metaphor would resonate with anyone who'd seen shoddy structures collapse while solid buildings endured.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What 'houses' do we build—careers, relationships, reputations—that cannot ultimately stand?
2. How does union with Christ provide the only foundation that endures when storms come?
3. In what ways should awareness of judgment day (1 Corinthians 3:12-15) affect what we build and how we build it?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיִשְׁעָר עַל בַּיִתוֹ אֵל אַל יִשְׁעַם דָּבָר יְהִי יְהִי  
He shall lean upon his house but it shall not stand he shall hold  
H8172 H5921 H1004 H3808 H5975 H2388

אֵל אַבְדֵל  
it fast but it shall not endure  
H0 H3808 H6965

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 27:18** (Parallel theme): He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth that the keeper maketh.

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