

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

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, שָׁאֵן) 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, אָמַד) nor 'endure' (qum, קָמַן).

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

יִשָּׁעַ	עַל	בֵּיתוֹ	אֵל	יָעַמְד	יִקַּח יָדוֹ
He shall lean	upon his house			but it shall not stand	he shall hold
H8172	H5921	H1004	H3808	H5975	H2388
וְ	בֵּ	אֵל	יָקוּם:		
H0	H3808	it fast but it shall not endure			
H6965					

Additional Cross-References

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

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