

Job 8:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.

Analysis

Bildad concludes his plant imagery: 'Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.' The word 'joy' (mesos, שִׁשְׁנָה) is bitterly ironic—this is the hypocrite's 'joyful' end: complete destruction and replacement. The phrase 'out of the earth shall others grow' (achar, רַקְעָה, others/different ones) indicates that the hypocrite's removal allows others to take his place. He's not only destroyed but forgotten, replaced by those who follow.

Bildad's sarcasm is cruel if applied to Job: 'Behold your joyful destiny—obliteration and replacement!' The irony is that Bildad's description will apply to himself and the other friends who spoke incorrectly of God (42:7-8), while Job will be vindicated and restored. Those who presumed to diagnose divine intent will themselves require Job's intercession to escape judgment.

The New Testament develops the theme of branches removed and replaced (John 15:2, 6; Romans 11:17-24). Those who don't abide in Christ are removed; others are grafted in. But the application requires humility—we must examine ourselves, not presume to identify which others will be removed. Bildad's confidence in his diagnosis exceeds his warrant.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern agricultural practice included removing dead or diseased plants and replacing them with healthy stock. Vineyards required pruning of

unfruitful branches (John 15:2). Bildad applies this agricultural necessity to divine judgment, assuming he can identify which 'plants' (people) require removal.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does John 15's imagery of vine and branches both warn and comfort—warning against fruitlessness, comforting regarding security in Christ?
2. What does Bildad's confident misdiagnosis teach about humility in applying theological categories to specific situations?
3. In what ways should fear of being 'removed' drive us to Christ rather than to self-justifying comparison with others?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	אֵל	הַ	בָּ	מַשְׁׁוֹךְ	וְשָׁ	בְּ	דַּרְכֵ	וְ	אֶל	מַעֲפָה	רְ	אַחֲרֵ	
H2005	H1931			Behold this is the joy			of his way		and out of the earth		shall others		
				H4885			H1870		H6083		H312		

אַתָּה אֵל הַ בָּ בְּ מַשְׁׁוֹךְ וְשָׁ בְּ דַּרְכֵ וְ אֶל מַעֲפָה רְ אַחֲרֵ

grow
H6779

Additional Cross-References

Job 20:5 (Parallel theme): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

Psalms 113:7 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and liftest the needy out of the dunghill;

1 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.

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