

Job 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

Analysis

Bildad's final verse contrasts destinies: 'They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.' The verb 'clothed' (labash, לָבַשׁ) uses garment imagery—shame becomes the haters' covering instead of honor. 'Shall come to nought' (ayin, אֵין) means to become nothing, cease to exist. Bildad promises Job's enemies will face destruction while Job is vindicated.

The supreme irony is that Bildad himself will be 'clothed with shame' when God declares, 'ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath' (42:7). Bildad presumes to speak for God while actually misrepresenting Him. His confident diagnosis of Job as hypocrite and himself as orthodox defender of divine justice inverts reality. The 'wicked' whose dwelling comes to nought includes not Job but those who falsely accused him.

This reversal illustrates James 2:13, 'judgment is without mercy to him that showed no mercy.' Bildad showed no mercy to suffering Job; he receives no mercy when his own error is exposed. Only Job's intercession (42:8-9) saves Bildad from the judgment he presumed to pronounce on others. The gospel pattern emerges: the condemned one (Job) intercedes for his false accusers (the friends).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern honor-shame culture intensified the significance of being 'clothed with shame'—public disgrace constituted severe judgment. Bildad promises this fate for Job's enemies, unwittingly describing his own coming humiliation when God vindicates Job and condemns the friends' theology.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the reversal of Bildad's pronouncement warn us against presuming to speak authoritatively for God?
2. What does Job's intercession for his accusers teach about the gospel pattern of the innocent suffering for the guilty?
3. In what ways should awareness that our theological pronouncements will be judged (Matthew 12:36-37) promote humility and charity?

Interlinear Text

שֹׂנְאֵי יָרֵךְ	יִלְבָּשׁוּ	בַּשָּׁמַיִם	וְאֵלֵי הָאֵלֹהִים
They that hate	thee shall be clothed	with shame	and the dwelling
H8130	H3847	H1322	H168
מִן־הַמָּוֶלֶת	אֵינָם יָבִיאוּ		
place of the wicked	shall come to nought		
H7563	H369		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 132:18 (Parallel theme): His enemies will I clothe with shame: but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Psalms 109:29 (Parallel theme): Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

Psalms 35:26 (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Job 18:14 (Parallel theme): His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.

Job 8:18 (Parallel theme): If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

Job 7:21 (Parallel theme): And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.