

# Isaiah 14:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?

## Analysis

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'All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?' The dead kings' greeting is taunting question: 'You too? Weak like us? Become like us?' This is stunning reversal. The living king dominated nations, seemed invincible, claimed unique power. Dead, he's like everyone else—weak, powerless, equal to those he once ruled. All earthly distinctions—power, wealth, achievement—vanish in death. The question drips with irony: they who were conquered by him now mock his conquest by death. The great equalizer has arrived; the mighty is brought low; the unique proves common.

## Historical Context

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This taunt reflects ancient concepts that in death, all become equally weak—no one exercises power or authority in Sheol. Kings and paupers, oppressors and oppressed, all share the same fate of death and decay. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 states the dead 'know not any thing' and 'have no more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.' The Babylonian king's pretensions to godlike status (see vv.13-14) are mocked by death's reality—he's merely human, merely mortal, merely dust returning to dust.

## Related Passages

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does death's leveling of all human distinctions warn against pride in status, wealth, or achievement?
2. What does the mockery of the dead kings teach about the vanity of earthly power and glory?

## Interlinear Text

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אָתָּה גַם אַל יְבִיעַנְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר וְיַעֲשֵׂנָה כָּל מַ

H3605

All they shall speak

H6030

and say

H559

H413

H1571

H859

כָּל יְתַ

unto thee Art thou also become weak

H2470

אַל יְכֹה כְּמָה יְכֹה

H3644

H413

נִמְשַׁלְתָּךְ:

as we art thou become like

H4911

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