

Isaiah 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch,
and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with
a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase
trodden under feet.

Analysis

'But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.' In stark contrast to v.18, the Babylonian king receives the opposite of honorable burial. 'Cast out of thy grave'—expelled, denied burial. 'Like an abominable branch' (nezer—can mean shoot/branch, here despised)—something disgusting, discarded. Three comparisons stress degradation:

1. rejected branch
2. clothing of the slain, blood-soaked, worthless
3. corpse trampled underfoot. 'Go down to the stones of the pit' suggests thrown into a pit with stones—a dishonored burial or no burial.

This is total disgrace: unburied, unmourned, discarded, trampled.

Historical Context

Dishonorable burial or non-burial was the ultimate shame in ancient culture—worse than death itself. To lie unburied meant no rest, no remembrance, joining the cursed. Several biblical figures suffered this: Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 22:19), Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30-37). The imagery here—abominable branch, bloodied

garment, trampled corpse—combines ritual uncleanness (blood, corpse) with social disgrace (trampled, discarded). Whether this was literally fulfilled for a specific Babylonian king or speaks symbolically of the dynasty's disgraceful end, the message is clear: pride leads not just to death but to disgrace and dishonor.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the denial of honorable burial serve as divine commentary on a life lived in pride and cruelty?
2. What does the trajectory from pride ('I will ascend,' v.13) to disgrace ('cast out,' v.19) teach about sin's consequences?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה הָ	הַשֵּׁל כָּתָ	מִקְבְּרֶךָ	כֵּן צֶרֶךְ	נִתְעַב בְּ
H859	But thou art cast out	of thy grave	branch	like an abominable
	H7993	H6913	H5342	H8581
לְבָשׁ	הַרְגוּ יָם	מִטְּעֵנִי	חֶרֶב	יֹרְדֵי יְ
and as the raiment	of those that are slain	thrust through	with a sword	that go down
H3830	H2026	H2944	H2719	H3381
אֶל	אֲבָנֵי	בֹּר	כַּף גֶּר	מוֹכָס:
H413	to the stones	of the pit	as a carcass	trodden under feet
	H68	H953	H6297	H947

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 41:9 (Parallel theme): Now the pit wherein Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, was it which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel: and Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with them that were slain.

Jeremiah 41:7 (Parallel theme): And it was so, when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew them, and cast them into the midst of the pit, he, and the men that were with him.

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