

# 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

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'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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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נָתַע בְּנֵי אָתָּה בְּנֵי מִקְבָּרָה בְּשָׁלַכְתְּךָ בְּנֵי אֶרְכָּתְךָ  
H859 But thou art cast out of thy grave branch like an abominable  
H7993 H6913 H5342 H8581

וַיַּרְדֵּן יְמֵינֵי שְׁלָמִים בְּגַת יְמֵינֵי מַטְעָנִים בְּנֵי שְׁלָמִים  
and as the raiment of those that are slain thrust through with a sword that go down  
H3830 H2026 H2944 H2719 H3381

מִתְּבָבָן בְּזֵבֶר אֶבְנֵי בְּזֵבֶר כַּפְרֵנָה אֶל  
to the stones of the pit as a carcase trodden under feet  
H413 H68 H953 H6297 H947

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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