

# Job 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.

## Analysis

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Job wishes for stillborn death: 'I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.' The phrase 'as though I had not been' (kelo hayiti, 'כִּי-הָיָיתִ') expresses desire for complete non-existence. Direct passage 'from womb to grave' (mibeten laqeber, מִבְטָן לִקְבֵּר) describes stillbirth—never breathing, never knowing conscious existence. Job envisions this as preferable to his current suffering.

The verse reveals suffering's power to make non-existence seem better than existence. Job doesn't merely want death now but retroactive non-existence—to erase his entire life as though it never occurred. This isn't theological nihilism but experiential despair. Job maintains God's reality while questioning whether his own existence has value. The lament is intensely personal—not 'life is meaningless' but 'my life is unbearable.'

The gospel transforms this: Christ makes our existence eternally meaningful by uniting us to Himself. Believers' lives are 'hid with Christ in God' (Colossians 3:3)—our existence matters infinitely because connected to His. Job wants erasure; Christ provides eternal significance. Job wants non-existence; Christ provides resurrection life that cannot end.

## Historical Context

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Ancient cultures recognized stillbirth as tragedy for the child denied life yet also understood it as escaping suffering's burdens. Job's preference for stillbirth over living reflects how extreme suffering can invert normal values, making death seem better than life.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does union with Christ provide the eternal significance that makes existence meaningful despite suffering?
2. What does Job's desire for non-existence teach about pastoral ministry to the suicidal?
3. In what ways does resurrection hope transform our assessment of whether existence is worthwhile?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא בָּרְךָ יְהוָה אֲבָנָה רָאשָׁה  
H834 H3808 H1961 H1961 H990 H6913  
from the womb to the grave

אָבָל:

I should have been as though I had not been I should have been carried

H2986

