

Job 13:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay.

Analysis

Job dismisses the friends' arguments: 'Your remembrances are like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay.' The double metaphor (ashes/clay) emphasizes the fragility and worthlessness of their defenses. Ashes represent what remains after fire; clay represents pre-fired, unstable form.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern pottery and mourning practices provide context for these metaphors. Ashes (from burnt sacrifice or mourning) and unfired clay both symbolize impermanence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When have your confident arguments proven to be fragile as ash or clay?

2. How does this metaphor warn against overconfident theology?

Interlinear Text

זְכֹרֶיכֶם	מִשְׁלִי	אֶפְרָ	גִּבֵּיכֶם:	חֹמֶר	גִּבֵּיכֶם:
Your remembrances	are like	unto ashes	to bodies	of clay	to bodies
H2146	H4912	H665	H1354	H2563	H1354

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