

Job 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Analysis

'So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.' The imagery: man 'lieth down' (שָׁכַב, shakhav) and 'riseth not' (לֹא-יָקֻם, lo-yaqum), remaining unawakened 'till the heavens be no more' (עַד-בְּלִתִּי שָׁמָיִם, ad-bilti shamayim). This seems to deny resurrection, but actually affirms it won't occur until cosmic renewal. 'Sleep' (שְׁנָתָם, shenatam) as a death metaphor appears throughout Scripture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). Job here glimpses, however dimly, that resurrection awaits new creation. The Reformed eschatology of new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1) fulfills this hope.

Historical Context

The phrase 'till the heavens be no more' suggests Job understood death's reversal required cosmic transformation, anticipating later biblical revelation about new creation as resurrection's context.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does resurrection hope depend on new creation hope?
2. What does the connection between personal resurrection and cosmic renewal teach us about redemption's scope?

Interlinear Text

שִׁמְמִים	בְּלֹת	יְהִי	עַד	שָׁכַב	וְלֹא	וְשָׁכַב	וְלֹא	וְשָׁכַב
not till the heavens				and riseth	H5704	be no more		
H8064		H1115		H6965		H3808	lieth down	H376
							they shall not awake	H3808
							nor be raised out	H5782
							of their sleep	H8142

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Job 3:13 (Parallel theme): For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest,

Revelation 20:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Isaiah 65:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 26:19 (Resurrection): Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Isaiah 51:6 (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall

wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Acts 3:21 (Parallel theme): Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Job 30:23 (Parallel theme): For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.

2 Peter 3:7 (Parallel theme): But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Ephesians 5:14 (Resurrection): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.