

Job 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

Analysis

'My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.' Job describes God storing his 'transgression' (פֶּשַׁעַי, pish'i) in a sealed bag (צֶרֶר, tseror) and sewing up his 'iniquity' (אֲוֹנִי, avoni). This imagery can be read two ways:

1. God carefully preserves evidence for judgment, or
2. God covers and hides sin.

Context suggests the former—Job feels God meticulously records every fault. Yet this same imagery appears positively in Hosea 13:12 (sin stored for future reckoning) and negatively in Deuteronomy 32:34. The Gospel transforms this: Christ's blood covers our sins permanently (Hebrews 10:17, Micah 7:19—sins cast into the sea).

Historical Context

Ancient people stored valuables in sealed bags. Job uses this commercial imagery to describe how carefully God seems to preserve his sins for accounting, reflecting ancient understanding of divine record-keeping.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ transform the terror of God carefully recording our sins?
2. What comfort exists in knowing God is precisely aware of our every sin yet has chosen to cover them?

Interlinear Text

סֶדֶם	בֶּצֶר וֹר	פֶּשַׁע י	וְתָטַף ל	עַל	עֲוֹנִי:
is sealed up	in a bag	My transgression	and thou sewest up	H5921	mine iniquity
H2856	H6872	H6588	H2950		H5771

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:34 (Parallel theme): Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?

Hosea 13:12 (Sin): The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid.