

Job 15:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.

Analysis

The wicked dwell in desolation: 'And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.' Eliphaz predicts the wicked will inhabit ruins—living in places under divine judgment or curse. Ancient cities lay desolate due to conquest or curse (Jeremiah's prophecies about Babylon, Edom). Living there suggested participation in their judgment. This doesn't fit Job—he lost his home to calamity, not divine curse.

Historical Context

Ancient Near East contained many ruined cities—archaeological tells mark former civilizations. These ruins were often viewed as under curse or divine judgment. Inhabiting such places suggested desperation or participation in the original inhabitants' guilt.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we interpret physical location and circumstances as they relate to spiritual state?
2. What dangers arise from assuming external circumstances always reflect internal spiritual reality?
3. How does the Gospel transform how we view those in desolate circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁכַח וְ	עַרְיָם	בְּתֵי	לֹא	
And he dwelleth	cities	in desolate	and in houses	H3808
H7931	H5892	H3582	H1004	
וְשָׁבוּ	אֲשֶׁר לְמוֹ	הַתַּעֲתֵדוּ	לְגִלִּים:	
which no man inhabiteth	H0	which are ready	to become heaps	
H3427	H834	H6257	H1530	

Additional Cross-References

Job 3:14 (Parallel theme): With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves;