

# Job 17:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves are ready for me.

## Analysis

---

'My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves are ready for me.' Job's lament intensifies: 'breath' (רוּחִי, *ruchi*—spirit) is 'corrupt' (חֻבָּלָה, *chubbalah*—ruined, destroyed), 'days' (יָמַי, *yamay*) are 'extinct' (נִזְאַכּוּ, *niz'akhu*—extinguished, snuffed out), 'graves' (קְבָרִים, *qevarim*) await. The triple parallelism emphasizes complete deterioration—spirit, time, and body all failing. This is depression's language, describing the feeling of imminent death. Job isn't exaggerating but expressing genuine death-proximity. The Psalms model such lament (Psalm 88:3-5). The Reformed pastoral tradition recognizes that faith doesn't preclude despair's expression. Job's honesty about his condition doesn't negate faith but exercises it by continuing to address God.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern lament literature used similar imagery of extinction and graves to describe the experience of being near death, whether literally or metaphorically through severe suffering.

## Related Passages

---

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

---

1. How do we minister to those who genuinely feel near death, whether physically or emotionally?
2. What does it mean that Scripture preserves such despairing language?

### Interlinear Text

---

רוּחִי	הִי בִלְה	יָמַי	נִזְעָכוּ	קִבְרֵי יָם	לִי:
<b>My breath</b>	<b>is corrupt</b>	<b>my days</b>	<b>are extinct</b>	<b>the graves</b>	H0
H7307	H2254	H3117	H2193	H6913	

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)