

# Job 17:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.

## Analysis

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Hope descends to death: 'They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when our rest together is in the dust.' Job's hope—if any remains—has descended to Sheol's bars (gates). Even there, the language of 'rest together' suggests Job hasn't fully abandoned faith. The dust recalls creation ('dust you are,' Genesis 3:19) and anticipates resurrection hope ('your dead shall live,' Isaiah 26:19). Job's lowest point paradoxically points toward hope's only true source—resurrection power.

## Historical Context

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The 'bars of the pit' refers to Sheol's gates—ancient tombs had literal bars, creating imagery for death's realm as fortified place. 'Rest in dust' became crucial concept for later resurrection theology—dust doesn't eliminate identity but preserves it for recreation.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does resurrection hope address the despair of death as final destination?

2. What does it mean that even Job's most hopeless language contains seeds of future hope?
3. How do we minister to those whose only 'hope' is that suffering will end in death?

## Interlinear Text

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בִּידֵי י	שָׂא ל	יִתְּרֵי דָנָה	אִם	יַחַד	עַל	עָפָר
to the bars	of the pit	They shall go down	H518	together	H5921	is in the dust
H905	H7585	H3381		H3162		H6083
נָחַת:						
when our rest						
H5183						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jonah 2:6** (Parallel theme): I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.