

Job 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

Analysis

Memory of the wicked perishes: 'His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.' Loss of reputation and memory represented ultimate curse in ancient world—being forgotten meant complete obliteration. No legacy, no honor, no continuation. While the finally impenitent do lose such memory, Bildad wrongly assumes Job faces this fate. God ensures Job's name endures through Scripture itself—ultimate irony given Bildad's prediction.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued memory and reputation highly. Names recorded in city gates, family genealogies, and oral tradition preserved individuals. To have no name in the street meant total social death—worse than physical death for ancient mindset.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does desire for lasting legacy potentially idolatrous versus healthy stewardship?
2. What does it mean that Job's name endures through Scripture despite Bildad's prediction?
3. How does eternal life in Christ transform our concern about earthly legacy?

Interlinear Text

זְכָרוֹן	מֵפִי	אֵצֶן	אֵלָא
His remembrance	shall perish	from the earth	
H2143	H6	H776	H3808
שֵׁם	עַל	פְּנֵי	בָּיִת
and he shall have no name	H0	in the street	H2351
H8034	H5921	H6440	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:16 (Parallel theme): The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Proverbs 10:7 (Parallel theme): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Psalms 109:13 (Parallel theme): Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

Proverbs 2:22 (Parallel theme): But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.