

Job 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.

Analysis

Job's relatives abandon him: 'My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.' The double loss—family failing and friends forgetting—emphasizes Job's complete social isolation. 'Failed' suggests they stopped functioning in their proper roles. 'Forgotten' indicates deliberate abandonment, not mere absence. This describes suffering's social dimension—those who should support flee instead. Yet this isolation drives Job toward God, his ultimate advocate.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture valued kinship bonds and friendship obligations highly. Family and friends provided social safety net, identity, and support. Their absence represented not just loneliness but existential crisis—loss of social location and identity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does suffering reveal who truly remains committed versus who was only circumstantially present?
2. What does Job's experience teach about finding God sufficient when human support fails?
3. How can we be friends who remain present during others' long, difficult trials?

Interlinear Text

שְׁכַחֲנָה וְיִרְאָה מִזְעָם קָרְבָּן כִּדְלָה
have forgotten My kinsfolk and my familiar friends have failed

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:11 (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

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