

Job 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.

Analysis

Youth's strength becomes dust: 'His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.' The wicked's youthful sins remain in their bones until death—they carry guilt to the grave. While sin does have lasting consequences, Zophar assumes all suffering that persists indicates unrepented sin. He can't conceive that God might have purposes for suffering beyond punishment for specific past sins.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom recognized that youthful sins could have lifelong consequences (Proverbs warns about sexual immorality's lasting effects). However, Scripture also affirms forgiveness that removes guilt, even when natural consequences remain.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between natural consequences of past sin and ongoing divine punishment?

2. What does it mean that forgiveness removes guilt even when consequences remain?
3. How does the Gospel address both guilt and shame from youthful sins?

Interlinear Text

עָפָר with him in the dust H6083	עַל in H5921	עַל of the sin of his youth H5973	מְלָא are full H4390
עַל צָמֹתִים H5934		עַל עַל H6106	
תִּשְׁכַּב: which shall lie down H7901			

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:26 (Parallel theme): For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.

Psalms 25:7 (Sin): Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

Job 21:26 (Parallel theme): They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.

John 8:24 (Sin): I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Ezekiel 32:27 (Parallel theme): And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads, but their iniquities shall be upon their bones, though they were the terror of the mighty in the land of the living.

Ezekiel 24:13 (Parallel theme): In thy filthiness is lewdness: because I have purged thee, and thou wast not purged, thou shalt not be purged from thy filthiness any more, till I have caused my fury to rest upon thee.

