

# Job 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

## Analysis

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**The eye also which saw him shall see him no more** (עַיִן שֶׁזָפַתְתוּ וְלֹא תוֹסִיף, ayin shezaphatthu velo tosiyph)—Zophar describes total erasure from human memory. The Hebrew shazaph (to see, behold) emphasizes eyewitness testimony, while lo tosiyph (shall not continue/do again) stresses finality. **Neither shall his place any more behold him** echoes Psalm 103:16 but twists its meaning. The psalmist uses this imagery to humble all humanity; Zophar weaponizes it against Job.

The tragedy is that Zophar's description will partially come true—Job's seven sons and three daughters who once saw him will never see him again (Job 1:18-19). But this happened to Job the righteous, not Job the wicked. Zophar's theology cannot account for righteous suffering, so he forces Job into his retribution framework.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Near Eastern culture, being forgotten—having no one remember or speak your name—represented complete annihilation. Posterity and memory constituted a form of immortality before clear resurrection doctrine developed. Zophar's threat that Job will be forgotten strikes at the core of ancient identity and legacy. This same fear appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 109:13-15, Ecclesiastes 9:5), making resurrection hope all the more precious.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Zophar's accurate description of transience become false when applied as judgment against Job?
2. How does the hope of resurrection transform the fear of being forgotten?
3. What does it mean that God remembers us even when human memory fails (Isaiah 49:15-16)?

## Interlinear Text

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עַיִן	שֶׁ זָרָתוֹ	וְלֹא	תֹסֵף יָרְאֵהוּ	וְלֹא	עַיִן
<b>The eye</b>	<b>also which saw</b>		<b>him shall see him no more</b>		
H5869	H7805	H3808	H3254	H3808	H5750
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וְתִשׁוּבָה	מְקוֹמוֹ				
<b>any more behold</b>	<b>neither shall his place</b>				
H7789	H4725				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 7:8** (Parallel theme): The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not.

**Job 7:10** (Parallel theme): He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

**Psalms 37:10** (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

**Psalms 37:36** (Parallel theme): Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

**Job 8:18** (Parallel theme): If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

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