

Job 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.

Analysis

The wicked die peacefully: 'They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.' Job observes that the wicked often live prosperously and die quickly (painlessly) rather than suffering prolonged death. The Hebrew 'rega' (moment) suggests instantaneous, peaceful death. This contradicts his friends' claims that the wicked always suffer terribly. Job's empirical observation challenges simplistic theodicy with complex reality.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom assumed the wicked would experience painful, prolonged deaths as divine judgment. Job's observation of quick, peaceful deaths for some wicked people challenged this assumption. Ecclesiastes later develops this theme of life's apparent injustice.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we reconcile the wicked's peaceful deaths with belief in divine justice?
2. What role does final judgment play in resolving apparent temporal injustice?
3. How does death's manner relate (or not relate) to one's spiritual state?

Interlinear Text

וְיָבֹל	וּבֵט	יָמֵיהֶם	וּבְרֶגַע	נָשָׂא	וְלַיְהִיתוּ:
H1086	in wealth	their days	and in a moment	to the grave	H5181
	H2896	H3117	H7281	H7585	

Additional Cross-References

Job 36:11 (Parallel theme): If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.