

# Job 24:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.

## Analysis

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**The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him**—Job describes death's totality with visceral imagery. "The womb shall forget him" (rechem, רֶחֶם, womb/mother) means even maternal love—the strongest human bond—erases with death. The phrase "the worm shall feed sweetly" uses rimmah (רִמָּה, maggot) and methaq (מֶתָק, sweet), creating grotesque irony: what's sweet to worms is dissolution of human flesh. This anticipates Jesus's warning about Gehenna "where their worm dieth not" (Mark 9:48).

**He shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree**—Complete obliteration awaits the wicked: no memory, no legacy. The verb "broken" (shavar, שָׁבַר) depicts violent shattering, like a tree snapped by storm. Avlah (עֲוִלָּה, wickedness/injustice) personified as a tree faces certain destruction. This echoes Psalm 37:35-36: "I have seen the wicked in great power... yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not." Job affirms ultimate justice but struggles with present delay.

## Historical Context

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Ancient burial customs feared being forgotten more than death itself—hence monuments, tombs, and name preservation (2 Samuel 18:18). For the wicked to be unremembered represented ultimate curse. The worm imagery reflects decomposition in rock-hewn tombs where bodies were laid on stone shelves.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the wicked person's ultimate fate—'he shall be no more remembered'—contrast with the righteous whose memory is blessed (Proverbs 10:7)?
2. What does this verse teach about the fleeting nature of earthly power and reputation?
3. How does Christ's resurrection reverse the worm's victory over human flesh (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	עוֹלָה	יִשְׁכַּח הוּא	רֶחֶם הַ	מֶתָ קוֹ	רֶחֶם הַ	יִשְׁכַּח הוּא
		shall forget	The womb	shall feed sweetly	him the worm	
		H7911	H7358	H4988	H7415	
עוֹלָה:	כֶּעֶץ	וַתִּשָּׁבֶר	וְיָזֵכֶר			
and wickedness	as a tree	shall be broken	on him he shall be no more remembered			
H5766	H6086	H7665	H2142			

## Additional Cross-References

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

**Daniel 4:14** (Parallel theme): He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

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