

Job 27:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep.

Analysis

Those that remain of him shall be buried in death—the Hebrew בָּמָוֶת יִקָּבְרוּ (bammavet yiqqaveru) literally means "in death they shall be buried," emphasizing that death itself is their grave—no honorable burial, no memorial. The plague or pestilence personified as "death" consumes survivors. **His widows shall not weep** reverses normal mourning customs; the Hebrew תִּבְכֶּינָה (tivkeynah, shall weep) appears negated, indicating even wives refuse lamentation. Ancient Near Eastern culture considered proper burial and mourning essential for honoring the dead—their absence signified ultimate disgrace.

Job describes complete social breakdown: the wicked man's death is so shameful that even widows—who depended on him and should mourn most—refuse tears. Either they're glad he's gone (suggesting his wickedness), or they're too devastated to mourn (suggesting plague killed them too). The verse depicts the erasure of memory and legacy—no honorable burial, no mourning, no continuation.

Historical Context

Proper burial and mourning were sacred duties in ancient Israel and surrounding cultures. Professional mourners were hired for funerals (Jeremiah 9:17-18), and widows especially were expected to lament (2 Samuel 14:2). Job's description of unburied dead recalls covenant curses in Deuteronomy 28:26, where corpses become food for birds and beasts. The plague or pestilence ("death" as divine

judgment) appears throughout ancient Near Eastern texts as punishment for covenant violation.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the absence of mourning reveal about how the wicked person lived and impacted others?
2. How does Job's description of shameful death contrast with the honorable burial and legacy he once enjoyed?
3. In what ways do our lives earn either genuine grief or relief when we die?

Interlinear Text

שְׁ רִידִיו	בְּמָוֶת	יִקָּבֵר רֹו	לֹא יִאֲלֶמֶנֶת יוֹ	
Those that remain	in death	of him shall be buried	and his widows	H3808
H8300	H4194	H6912	H490	
תִּבְכֶּינָה:				
shall not weep				
H1058				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:64 (Parallel theme): Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.