

Job 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

Analysis

Job's rhetorical questions 'Why died I not from the womb?' reveal the depth of his torment. The interrogative form demands answers from God while acknowledging there are none readily apparent. This tension between questioning and faith characterizes the entire book - honest doubt does not equal unbelief.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures viewed stillbirth and infant mortality as common but tragic. Job's wish for death at birth subverts the cultural assumption that life is always preferable to non-existence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What questions do you have for God that seem unanswerable?

2. How can questioning God actually be an act of faith rather than doubt?

Interlinear Text

לָא לְמָה	לָא	מִן הָאֵם	אָמַרְתָּ	מִן בֶּטֶן	יָצָאתִי
H4100	H3808	I not from the womb	Why died	of the belly	when I came out
		H7358	H4191	H990	H3318

וְאֵינִי נֹתֵן:
why did I not give up the ghost
H1478

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 46:3 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

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