

Job 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves;

Analysis

Job imagines himself at rest 'with kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves.' This likely refers to rulers who built great monuments and tombs that eventually fell to ruins. Even the mighty and wise find only empty monuments in death. Job's point is that death levels all distinctions—in the grave, the sufferer rests alongside kings. This reflects ancient wisdom's recognition that death is the great equalizer (Ecclesiastes 2:16).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings built massive tombs and monuments to preserve their memory (pyramids, ziggurats, burial complexes). Despite their grandeur, these eventually became ruins—'desolate places.'

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does death's equalizing of all people affect your perspective on current status and suffering?

2. What does Job's meditation on the vanity of human monuments teach us about true significance?

Interlinear Text

עַם	מֶלְכִים	וְנִסְיָאֵי	אֶרֶץ	הַבְּנוּיָה	חֲרָב וְתִלְמוֹ:
H5973	With kings	and counsellors	of the earth	which built	desolate places
	H4428	H3289	H776	H1129	H2723

Additional Cross-References

Job 15:28 (Parallel theme): And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.

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