

# Job 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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לְמַן: שָׁרֵב וֹתְּבָן יִם הַבָּנִים קָרְבָּן וֹתְּבָן יִם שָׁרֵב וֹתְּבָן יִם  
H5973 With kings and counsellors of the earth which built desolate places H0  
H4428 H3289 H776 H1129 H2723

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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