

# Job 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.

## Analysis

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In death, 'the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.' Job pictures Sheol as a place where even prisoners find rest from their harsh taskmasters. The 'oppressor' (Hebrew 'nagas'—taskmaster/slave driver) cannot reach beyond death. This reflects how Job's suffering has made him feel imprisoned by pain, longing for the rest even prisoners find in death. It anticipates the Christian hope that death frees believers from sin's oppression (Romans 6:7).

## Historical Context

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Slavery and imprisonment were common in the ancient Near East, often involving brutal treatment by taskmasters. Job uses this imagery to describe suffering's oppressive nature.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

## Study Questions

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1. In what ways does suffering make you feel imprisoned?

2. How does the Christian hope of freedom from sin's oppression in death provide comfort?

## Interlinear Text

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יַחַד	אֶסְרֵי יָם	שָׁאֲבָנוּ	לֹא	שָׁמְעוּ	וְלֹא
together	There the prisoners	rest	H3808	they hear	not the voice
H3162	H615	H7599		H8085	H6963
נִגְשׁ:					
of the oppressor					
H5065					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 39:7** (Parallel theme): He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver.