

Job 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

וְאַתָּה	אָסִיר	יָמִים	שָׁאַנְןָכִי	לֹא	שְׁמַעַנְהוּ	וְלֹא	שְׁמַעַנְהוּ
together	There the prisoners			rest		they hear	not the voice
H3162	H615			H7599		H8085	H6963
נִשְׁאָל:							
of the oppressor							
H5065							

Additional Cross-References

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

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