

Job 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The small and great are there; and the servant is free from his master.

Analysis

Job declares, 'The small and great are there; and the servant is free from his master.' Death abolishes all earthly hierarchies and distinctions. The slave finds freedom from his master not through rebellion or manumission but through death's great leveling. For Job, whose wealth and status have vanished, this equality in death seems preferable to continued life with its painful reversals of fortune. This anticipates the gospel truth that in Christ, earthly distinctions fade (Galatians 3:28).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies had rigid class structures with significant gaps between the powerful and powerless. Job's observation that death eliminates these distinctions was countercultural and radical.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel's elimination of earthly distinctions provide comfort in suffering?
2. What does Job's focus on death's equalizing effect reveal about the injustices he perceives in his current suffering?

Interlinear Text

כָּלֶב וְגָדֵל ! וְאֶשְׁתָּה הַאֲנָשָׁה תְּבַשֵּׂר ! כָּפֵשׂ

The small and great H8033 H1931 **are there and the servant** H5650 **is free** H2670

H6996 H1419

מִאָדָנִים
from his master

H113

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:23 (Parallel theme): For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.

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