

Job 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they can find the grave?

Analysis

Job describes the bitter paradox: sufferers 'rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they can find the grave.' The Hebrew 'sus' (rejoice exceedingly) and 'samach' (are glad) are normally used for positive celebrations—weddings, victories, deliverances. Job inverts this language: finding the grave becomes the occasion for celebration. This reflects how intense suffering can completely reverse normal human desires and values.

Historical Context

The language of rejoicing and gladness permeates ancient Near Eastern celebration contexts. Job's application to finding the grave creates jarring cognitive dissonance, emphasizing his suffering's intensity.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Job's inversion of celebration language help you understand the depth of suffering?

2. When has suffering so distorted your perspective that normal values seemed reversed?

Interlinear Text

הַשְׂמִחַ יִם	אֱלִי	גִּיל	וְשִׂישׁוּ	כִּי	יִמְצְאוּ	קֶבֶר:
Which rejoice	H413	exceedingly	and are glad	H3588	when they can find	the grave
H8056		H1524	H7797		H4672	H6913

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