

Job 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me, in whom old age was perished?

Analysis

Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me (גַּם־כֹּחַ יְדֵיהֶם לָמָּה לִּי)—Job describes outcasts so degraded that even their labor (כֹּחַ, koach, strength) was worthless. The rhetorical question expresses contempt. **In whom old age was perished** (שָׁלַח אֶבְיָרוֹ אֲבָד)—The kalach (שָׁלַח, vigor of old age, ripeness) had 'perished' (אֲבָד, avad), meaning they aged prematurely through hardship, never reaching dignified maturity.

This begins Job's devastating lament about his social reversal (Job 30:1-15)—those he once pitied now mock him. The Hebrew emphasizes the shocking inversion: respected elder becomes object of derision from society's refuse. This prefigures Christ, 'despised and rejected' (Isaiah 53:3), mocked by those He came to save. Job's descent into social death anticipates the ultimate innocent sufferer.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern society was rigidly hierarchical, with elders commanding absolute respect (Leviticus 19:32). Job's earlier description of his honor (Job 29) contrasts sharply with this degradation. The outcasts he describes were likely landless nomads, criminals, or those exiled for various offenses—the 'untouchables' of ancient Israelite society.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Job's social reversal help us identify with Christ's descent to humiliation?
2. When have you experienced mockery from those you once served or helped?
3. What does Job 30 teach about the Christian paradox that exaltation comes through humiliation?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	כֹּחַ	! דִּיָּהֶם	לָמָּה	לִי יְמוֹ	לִי יְמוֹ
H1571	might the strength	of their hands	Yea whereto	H0	H5921
	H3581	H3027	H4100		
אָבָד	כָּלִי חָכְמָה:				
was perished	profit me in whom old age				
H6	H3624				
