

Job 30:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.

Analysis

Job acknowledges death's certainty: "For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living." The verb *yada* (יָדָע, "know") expresses certainty, not mere opinion. The phrase "house appointed" (*bet mo'ed*, בֵּית מוֹעֵד) means the designated meeting place—Sheol, the grave. The universal scope ("for all living") democratizes death: rich and poor, righteous and wicked all face this appointment. Hebrews 9:27 echoes this: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." From a Reformed perspective, Job's acknowledgment demonstrates proper awareness of human mortality that should inform all earthly pursuits. Unlike modern death-denial, biblical wisdom embraces mortality's reality while looking beyond it. Job's statement contains no despair, merely clear-eyed recognition that God is sovereign even over death's timing. This prepares for the doctrine of resurrection—while death is universal, it is not final for those in covenant with God.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures universally acknowledged death but differed on afterlife. Most Near Eastern views portrayed Sheol/underworld as shadowy half-existence. Job's phrase "house appointed" suggests order even in death—it's not random but divinely scheduled. This orderliness anticipates fuller revelation of God's control over death and eventual resurrection hope that developed through biblical revelation.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How should the certainty of death shape our daily priorities and long-term planning?
2. What is the relationship between acknowledging death's reality and maintaining Christian hope?
3. How does Job's recognition of death's universality inform our evangelism and view of human equality?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֲדַעְתִּי	מָוֶת	תָּשִׁיבֵנִי	וּבֵּית	מוֹעֵד
H3588	For I know	me to death	that thou wilt bring	and to the house	appointed
	H3045	H4194	H7725	H1004	H4150
לְכָל	חַיִּים				
H3605	for all living				
	H2416				

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