

Job 40:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret.

Analysis

"Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret." God continues the challenge—can Job hide (tomen, טָמַן) the wicked in dust and bind (chavosh, חָבַשׁ) their faces in darkness? This describes comprehensive judgment—death and the grave. Only God controls life and death, determining when the wicked face final judgment. Job cannot hasten that day despite desiring it. This teaches that God's timing in judgment, though mysterious, reflects perfect wisdom and purpose.

Historical Context

Death and burial ("hidden in dust") represented final judgment in ancient thought. The "secret" place suggests Sheol/the grave. God's exclusive power over death and judgment distinguished Yahweh from pagan deities. This would assure readers that ultimate justice is certain, even if delayed beyond human preference.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does trusting God's perfect timing for judgment free you from bitterness over unpunished evil?

2. What wickedness are you trying to "bury" yourself rather than entrusting to divine justice?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| בְּטָמוֹן: | בְּעָפָר ר | יַחַד | פְּנֵיהֶם | וְקָשׁ | בְּטָמוֹן: |
| Hide | them in the dust | together | their faces | and bind | Hide |
| H2934 | H6083 | H3162 | H6440 | H2280 | H2934 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

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