

Job 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

Analysis

Job intensifies his meditation on death's irreversibility: 'He shall return no more to his house' employs the verb *shuv* (שׁוּב), meaning to return or turn back—the same verb used in repentance theology. Death represents an irreversible departure from earthly dwelling. 'Neither shall his place know him any more' uses the verb *nakar* (נָכַר), meaning to recognize, acknowledge, or regard. The deceased becomes unrecognized, forgotten by the very places that once knew him intimately.

This verse articulates the existential terror of being forgotten, of leaving no lasting trace. Job's concern isn't merely ceasing to exist but being erased from memory and significance. The phrase anticipates Psalm 103:16, 'the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.' Yet Scripture elsewhere promises that God remembers His people perpetually—their names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:27).

The Reformed doctrine of eternal security provides the answer Job lacks: believers' places are prepared in the Father's house (John 14:2), and their names are permanently known to God (2 Timothy 2:19). Job speaks from beneath the veil of incomplete revelation, articulating legitimate fear that fuller revelation addresses. His earthly house may forget him, but his heavenly mansion awaits.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures emphasized maintaining family continuity and memory through offspring and lasting reputation. The greatest tragedy was dying without descendants or being forgotten by future generations. Job's loss of all ten children (1:18-19) compounds this fear—no one remains to remember him or continue his legacy.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel promise of eternal remembrance by God answer Job's fear of being forgotten?
2. What does Job's concern about 'his place' knowing him no more reveal about human longing for significance and remembrance?
3. In what ways should awareness of earthly transience drive us to seek eternal treasures and lasting legacy in God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יָשׁוּב	עוֹד	לְבֵיתוֹ	וְלֹא	יָכִירָנוּ	עוֹד
H3808	He shall return	H5750	no more to his house	H3808	know	H5750
	H7725		H1004		H5234	
מִקְוֵהוֹ:						
neither shall his place						
H4725						

Additional Cross-References

Job 8:18 (Parallel theme): If he destroy him from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

Psalms 103:16 (Parallel theme): For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

Job 20:9 (Parallel theme): The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.

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