

Psalms 49:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Analysis

The reason not to fear: 'For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.' The naked truth of death: nothing accompanies us. 'Glory' (reputation, honor, visible splendor) remains behind. The funeral procession doesn't include moving vans; shrouds have no pockets.

Historical Context

Ancient burial practices sometimes included grave goods, but even wealthy burials couldn't truly transfer possessions to the afterlife. The psalm exposes this as pretense.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How should the reality that 'he shall carry nothing away' affect our pursuit of wealth?
2. What truly accompanies us into eternity?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	כִּי	בְּמוֹתוֹ	יִקַּח	לֹא	הֵפֵל
H3588	H3808	For when he dieth	he shall carry nothing away	H3605	H3808
		H4194	H3947		
יֵרֵד	אַחֲרָיו	כְּבוֹדוֹ			
shall not descend	after	his glory			
H3381	H310	H3519			

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:7 (Parallel theme): For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Job 27:19 (Parallel theme): The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not.

1 Corinthians 15:43 (Glory): It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

Luke 16:24 (Parallel theme): And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.