

Deuteronomy 32:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Analysis

But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked—Yeshurūn (ישׁוּרֹן), meaning 'upright one,' is an affectionate name for Israel (Deuteronomy 33:5, 26; Isaiah 44:2), making the indictment more poignant. The verb **kicked** (בָּעַז, bā'at) depicts a well-fed beast rebelling against its master—ingratitude expressed as violence. The threefold repetition 'thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness' (shāmantā, 'āvītā, kāsītā) emphasizes prosperous excess breeding arrogance.

He forsook God which made him (וַיַּעֲזַב אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה) —the verb nātash means to abandon or cast off. **Lightly esteemed** (וַיַּנְבַּל) the Rock means to treat as foolish or worthless. Prosperity became Israel's spiritual poison, fulfilling Jesus's warning about wealth's danger (Matthew 19:23-24).

Historical Context

This verse prophetically describes the cycle repeated throughout Judges, Kings, and Chronicles: blessing leads to complacency, complacency to idolatry, idolatry to judgment. Written before Israel entered Canaan, Moses accurately predicted the nation's trajectory—fulfilled in Jeroboam's golden calves (1 Kings 12), Manasseh's abominations (2 Kings 21), and ultimately the Babylonian exile.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does prosperity often produce spiritual decline rather than gratitude and faithfulness?
2. How does calling Israel 'Jeshurun' (upright one) while describing rebellion highlight the tragedy of covenant unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

שַׁמְּנָתָה	יִשְׁרָאֵל	וַיָּבֹעַ ט	שַׁמְּנָתָה	עָבֵית
thou art waxen fat	But Jeshurun	and kicked	thou art waxen fat	thou art grown thick
H8080	H3484	H1163	H8080	H5666
כָּשֵׁר יְתָ	לִיטָשׁ	אֵל וָה	עָשָׂה הָ	
thou art covered	with fatness then he forsook	God	which made	
H3780	H5203	H433	H6213	
לִינְבֶּה	כְּ וּ	וְשַׁעַתּוֹן		
him and lightly esteemed	the Rock	of his salvation		
H5034	H6697	H3444		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:20 (References God): For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and

they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

Hosea 13:6 (Parallel theme): According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

Psalms 89:26 (Salvation): He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

Deuteronomy 33:5 (Parallel theme): And he was king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.

Acts 28:27 (Parallel theme): For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Deuteronomy 32:4 (References God): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

1 Samuel 2:29 (Parallel theme): Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

Isaiah 1:4 (Parallel theme): Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Isaiah 44:2 (Creation): Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.