

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 (יֵשׁוּרוּן), meaning 'upright one,' is an affectionate name for Israel (Deuteronomy 33:5, 26; Isaiah 44:2), making the indictment more poignant. The verb **kicked** (בָּעַט, bā'aṭ) 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 (נָטַשׁ אֱלֹהֵי עֹשֵׂהוּ)—the verb nāṭash means to abandon or cast off. **Lightly esteemed** (לִיָּבֹל) 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

שָׁמֵן נֶתָּה thou art waxen fat H8080	יֵשׁוּרוּן But Jeshurun H3484	וַיִּבֶּעַ ט and kicked H1163	שָׁמֵן נֶתָּה thou art waxen fat H8080	עָבָה יֶתֶךָ thou art grown thick H5666
כָּשָׁה יֶתֶךָ thou art covered H3780	וַיִּטֹּשׁ with fatness then he forsook H5203	אֵלֹהִים God H433	עָשָׂה הוּא which made H6213	
וַיִּבֶּה לֵּךְ him and lightly esteemed H5034	צֹרֶךְ the Rock H6697	יִשְׁעָתוֹ: of his salvation H3444		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:20 (References God): For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear 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.