

Ecclesiastes 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?

Analysis

The Preacher adds, 'For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?' This verse emphasizes that enjoyment of life's provisions comes from God, not human effort. The Hebrew 'chush' (חַשׁ, hasten/enjoy) suggests eagerness or ability to experience pleasure. Solomon, with unlimited resources, testifies that capacity for enjoyment is God's gift—wealth doesn't guarantee satisfaction. This anticipates verse 26: God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please Him. The verse teaches contentment theology: ability to enjoy God's gifts matters more than accumulating possessions. True satisfaction is divine gift, not human achievement.

Historical Context

Solomon had unparalleled resources for pleasure—gourmet food, fine wine, elaborate feasts (1 Kings 4:22-23). Yet he testifies that these don't automatically produce joy. Wealth creates opportunity but not capacity for enjoyment. This wisdom counters both prosperity gospel (blessing equals happiness) and ascetic denial (pleasure is evil). The New Testament affirms that God 'giveth us richly all things to enjoy' (1 Timothy 6:17), but warns against trusting riches. The Puritans emphasized grateful reception of God's provisions as means of grace, enjoyed within proper bounds.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you possess the capacity to enjoy God's provisions gratefully, or does anxiety and striving rob you of satisfaction?
2. How does this verse challenge the assumption that more resources automatically produce more happiness?

Interlinear Text

מִתְבָּנִים כִּי שָׁאַל אָכְלָה וְאַל שָׁאַל מִתְבָּנִים
H3588 H4310 For who can eat H398 H4310 or who else can hasten H2363 hereunto more H2351 H4480

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