

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Analysis

The Preacher warns against obsessive wealth-seeking: 'He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.' The Hebrew 'ahav' (אָהַב, loveth) denotes deep affection and attachment, not mere desire. Loving money creates insatiable appetite—acquiring more intensifies craving rather than satisfying it. The parallel phrase 'he that loveth abundance with increase' reinforces this: accumulated wealth doesn't fulfill but generates desire for more. This verse diagnoses the paradox of materialism: the more you have, the more you want. It's 'vanity' (hevel, הֶבֶל) because pursuit of satisfaction through accumulation proves futile. True satisfaction comes from God, not possessions. Jesus taught: 'a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth' (Luke 12:15). Paul commanded: 'having food and raiment let us be therewith content' (1 Timothy 6:8).

Historical Context

Solomon's vast wealth (1 Kings 10:14-29) gave him authority to speak about silver's inability to satisfy. Ancient monarchs accumulated treasure compulsively, yet satisfaction eluded them. The verse exposes the lie that 'enough' exists in material accumulation—desire expands to exceed possession. This wisdom counters both ancient and modern materialism. Jesus's parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21) illustrates this principle: accumulation doesn't produce security or satisfaction. Early church fathers warned that covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). The Reformers emphasized that contentment is learned grace, not natural

disposition. Modern consumer culture epitomizes this verse: advertising creates perpetual dissatisfaction, promising that the next purchase will satisfy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you 'love silver'—finding your security, identity, or satisfaction in financial accumulation rather than in God?
2. What evidence suggests that acquiring more has intensified rather than satisfied your desires?

Interlinear Text

אֱהֵב	כֶּסֶף	לֹא	יִשְׂבֹּעַ	כֶּסֶף	וּמִי	אֱהֵב
He that loveth	silver	H3808	shall not be satisfied	silver	H4310	He that loveth
H157	H3701		H7646	H3701		H157
בְּהֵמָה	לֹא	תִּבְוָאָה	גַּם	זֶה	הַכֶּלִּל:	
abundance	H3808	with increase	H1571	H2088	this is also vanity	
H1995		H8393			H1892	

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:10 (Love): For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:24 (Love): No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 12:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Matthew 6:19 (Parallel theme): Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Ecclesiastes 4:8 (Parallel theme): There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (Parallel theme): Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Psalms 62:10 (Parallel theme): Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

Psalms 52:7 (Parallel theme): Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 (Parallel theme): For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (Parallel theme): Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.