

# James 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

## Analysis

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**Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.** Your riches are corrupted, garments moth-eaten. Wealth decays; luxury wardrobe rots. James emphasizes temporality of hoarded goods.

Reformed stewardship teaches that riches unused for kingdom purposes become evidence against us. Decay testifies to misplaced trust.

## Historical Context

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Ancient wealth was stored in grain, garments, and metals—all susceptible to decay. James paints courtroom imagery: spoiled goods will testify at judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What unused resources might testify against you?
2. How can you redirect assets toward gospel purposes?
3. Who could benefit from clothing, housing, or savings you have stored?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ πλοῦτος ὑμῶν σέσηπεν καὶ τὰ ἱμάτια ὑμῶν  
G3588      riches      Your      are corrupted      and      G3588      garments      Your  
G4149      G5216      G4595      G2532      G2440      G5216

σητόβρωτα γέγονεν  
motheaten      are  
G4598      G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 13:28** (Parallel theme): And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth, as a garment that is moth eaten.

**Isaiah 50:9** (Parallel theme): Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

**Luke 12:33** (Parallel theme): Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

**Isaiah 51:8** (Parallel theme): For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

**1 Peter 1:4** (Parallel theme): To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,