

# James 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

## Analysis

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**Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.** Your gold and silver are corroded (katioōtai, κατιώται); their rust will eat flesh like fire. You hoarded treasure in the last days. James warns that wealth becomes evidence for condemnation.

Reformed eschatology recognizes we live in last days; hoarding betrays disbelief in Christ's return. Stewardship proves eschatological hope.

## Historical Context

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Economic elites stockpiled metals as security. James asserts that such hoarding in the messianic era signals rebellion. Similar warnings appear in intertestamental literature.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does living in the 'last days' reshape financial planning?
2. What long-term hoards need to be liquidated for kingdom use?
3. How can you cultivate contentment instead of stockpiling?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	χρυσὸς	ὑμῶν	καὶ	ὁ	ἄργυρος	κατίωται	καὶ	ὁ
G3588	gold	Your	and	G3588	silver	is cankered	and	G3588
	G5557	G5216	G2532		G696	G2728	G2532	
ἰὸς	αὐτῶν	εἰς	μαρτύριον	ὑμῖν	ἔσται	καὶ	φάγεται	
the rust	of them	against	a witness	you	shall be	and	shall eat	
G2447	G846	G1519	G3142	G5213	G2071	G2532	G5315	
τὰς	σάρκας	ὑμῶν	ὥς	πῦρ	ἐθησαυρίσατε	ἐν		
G3588	flesh	Your	as it were	fire	Ye have heaped treasure together	for		
	G4561	G5216	G5613	G4442	G2343	G1722		
ἐσχάταις	ἡμέραις							
the last	days							
G2078	G2250							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 2:5** (Parallel theme): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**Revelation 21:8** (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**Isaiah 2:2** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

