

# 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

**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

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

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

**Psalm 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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οἱ χρυσὸς ὑμῶν καὶ οἱ ἄργυρος κατίωται καὶ οἱ  
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 ὡς πῦρ ἐθησαυρίσατε ἐν  
G3588 flesh Your as it were fire Ye have heaped treasure together for  
G4561 G5216 G5613 G4442 G2343 G1722

ἔσχάταις 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 treasures 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.

