

Job 15:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.

Analysis

The wicked indulge in prosperity: 'Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.' This describes self-indulgent wealth—the wicked grow fat through greed and excess. 'Collops' (folds) of fat suggest repulsive over-indulgence. In ancient context where most lived subsistence-level, such obesity indicated both wealth and moral failure (lack of self-control, ignoring the poor). Eliphaz implies Job's former prosperity indicated such moral failure.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures viewed obesity differently than modern societies—it could indicate wealth and success but also moral failure in not sharing with the poor. Prophets condemned the self-indulgent wealthy (Amos 6:4-6).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does prosperity tempt toward self-indulgence and away from generosity?

2. What is the Christian's responsibility regarding wealth—both enjoying God's gifts and sharing with others?
3. How do we avoid both the prosperity gospel and knee-jerk suspicion of all wealth?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כֶּסֶה	פָּנָיו	בְּחֶלְבֹּ	וַיַּעַשׂ	פִּימָה
H3588	Because he covereth	his face	with his fatness	and maketh	collops of fat
	H3680	H6440	H2459	H6213	H6371
עָלָיו	כֶּסֶל:				
H5921	on his flanks				
	H3689				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 17:10 (Parallel theme): They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

Isaiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Psalms 73:7 (Parallel theme): Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

Jeremiah 5:28 (Parallel theme): They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Parallel theme): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.