

Job 15:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue,
neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.

Analysis

The wicked's wealth won't last: 'He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.' Eliphaz promises wealth gained wickedly cannot endure. The threefold negative—not rich, not continue, not prolong—emphasizes complete loss. While Proverbs affirms that ill-gotten gain doesn't profit (Proverbs 10:2), Eliphaz wrongly assumes all loss indicates prior wickedness. Job's losses don't prove he gained wealth wickedly.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom literature frequently taught that wicked wealth doesn't endure (Psalm 37, Proverbs). This principle generally proves true over time, but individual cases (like Job) require more nuanced interpretation than Eliphaz provides.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do we maintain that wickedness leads to loss without assuming all loss proves prior wickedness?

2. What biblical examples show the righteous losing wealth without indicating divine displeasure?
3. How should temporary earthly losses shape our pursuit of eternal treasures?

Interlinear Text

לֹא

H3808

He shall not be rich

H6238

לֹא יִעַשֶּׂר

H3808

continue

H6965

חִיל

H2428

לֹא

H3808

neither shall his substance

לֹא יִתְּעַטֵּה

neither shall he prolong

H5186

לֹא יִצְרָא

H776

thereof upon the earth

מִנְלָמָד:

H4512

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