

# Job 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.

## Analysis

Labor brings no enjoyment: 'That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice therein.' The wicked must restore what they gained—no enjoyment of their labor. Full restitution leaves them without gain. While true for those who gained through oppression, this doesn't explain Job's losses. Job's labor was righteous, yet he lost its fruit.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law required restitution for theft and fraud (Exodus 22). Multiple restitution (sometimes fourfold or more) could impoverish the thief. Zophar assumes Job secretly defrauded others, requiring such restitution. God's later vindication proves this false.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do we make proper restitution when we've wronged others?
2. What is the difference between restitution for actual wrong versus assumption of wrong without evidence?
3. How does the Gospel both require justice and offer grace regarding past wrongs?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּשֵׁבֶת יְבָלָע	וְלֹא יְגַע	בְּשֵׁבֶת יְבָלָע
for shall he restore	That which he laboured	and shall not swallow it down
H7725	H3022	H3808
לְפָנֵי יְבָלָע	וְלֹא תְּמַזֵּה	וְלֹא תְּמַזֵּה
according to his substance	shall the restitution	be and he shall not rejoice
H2428	H8545	H5965

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 20:10** (Parallel theme): His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.

**Job 20:15** (Parallel theme): He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.

**Job 31:29** (Parallel theme): If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

**Job 31:25** (Parallel theme): If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

**Job 20:5** (Parallel theme): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

**Proverbs 1:12** (Parallel theme): Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

**Jeremiah 51:44** (Parallel theme): And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

**Jeremiah 22:13** (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;

**Jeremiah 22:17** (Parallel theme): But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

**Jeremiah 51:34** (Parallel theme): Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon, he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out.

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