

Job 21:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.

Analysis

Some die in prosperity: 'His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.' Job describes someone in peak health ('breasts full' suggests abundant nourishment, 'bones moistened with marrow' indicates vigor) who dies nonetheless. Health isn't protection from death. This further undermines using physical condition as divine favor indicator. The healthy and unhealthy alike face mortality.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern medicine recognized that even the apparently healthy could die suddenly. Milk and marrow imagery suggests optimal nutrition and health. Job's point: neither health nor wealth prevents death, so they can't be used as simple righteousness indicators.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does death's unpredictability regardless of health challenge health-and-wealth gospel?
2. What does it mean to steward health while recognizing it doesn't guarantee longevity?
3. How should awareness of mortality's unpredictability shape our daily living?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁקָה:	עַצְמוֹתָיו	וְמִן	צָלָב	מְלָאָה	אֵת טִינוֹן
His breasts	are full	of milk	with marrow	and his bones	are moistened
H5845	H4390	H2461	H4221	H6106	H8248

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:8 (Parallel theme): It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org