

Job 22:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

Analysis

Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust—Eliphaz promises that repentance will bring prosperity where gold becomes as common as aphar (אֶפֶר, dust/dirt). **The gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks** references Ophir, famed for the finest gold (1 Kings 9:28, 10:11), suggesting it will become as abundant as river pebbles. The Hebrew betsir (בֶּצִיר, rock/ore) may indicate gold ore found in streambeds.

Eliphaz preaches a retribution theology: righteousness guarantees material prosperity, suffering proves sin. This 'prosperity gospel' framework collapses under Job's case—his suffering stemmed not from sin but from divine testing (1:8). While Scripture affirms that wisdom often leads to blessing (Proverbs), it also reveals a suffering Servant who enriches others through poverty (Isaiah 53, 2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus warned against storing up earthly treasures (Matthew 6:19-21), redefining prosperity in kingdom terms.

Historical Context

Ophir's location remains disputed—possibly in Arabia, India, or East Africa—but it was renowned throughout the ancient world for exceptional gold quality. Solomon's fleet brought 420 talents from Ophir (1 Kings 9:28). Eliphaz's promise reflects Ancient Near Eastern wisdom's common equation of righteousness with prosperity, a theology thoroughly examined and nuanced in Job's narrative.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the prosperity gospel distort the biblical relationship between faithfulness and blessing?
2. What does Job's experience teach about measuring spiritual health by material circumstances?
3. How should Christians view wealth in light of Job's suffering and Christ's poverty?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁית	עַל	עָפָר	בְּזָרָה	וּבָצוּר	נְחֹלִים
Then shalt thou lay up	as	dust	gold	as the stones	of the brooks
H7896	H5921	H6083	H1220	H6697	H5158
וּבָצוּר					
אֹפִיר:					
and the gold of Ophir					
H211					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 13:12 (Parallel theme): I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

1 Kings 9:28 (Parallel theme): And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.

