

# Job 31:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.

## Analysis

**It is a fire that consumeth to destruction** (פִּאֵשׁ הִיא עַד־אֲבָדָן תָּאֵל, ki-esch hi ad-abaddon tokhel)—adultery is compared to esh (אֵשׁ, fire) that devours until abaddon (אֲבָדָן, destruction/the grave). The term abaddon appears six times in Job, always denoting the realm of death or the abyss (Proverbs 15:11, 27:20). **Would root out all mine increase** (tevu'ati, קְבֻּצָּתִי, my produce/harvest) shows that sexual sin doesn't stay contained—it consumes everything: family, legacy, prosperity.

This imagery anticipates Proverbs 6:27-28: "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Sexual sin is self-destructive fire. The progression from heart-lust (v. 1) to potential action (v. 9) to total destruction (v. 12) traces sin's deadly trajectory, paralleling James 1:15: "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

## Historical Context

Ancient agricultural imagery pervades this verse—fire destroying crops represented total economic ruin. For Job, a wealthy landowner, to lose all his 'increase' meant complete devastation. The connection between sexual immorality and material loss appears throughout Wisdom literature (Proverbs 5:7-14, 6:26-35). This reflects covenant theology: obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curse (Deuteronomy 28).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the image of fire consuming to destruction challenge the lie that sexual sin can be contained or controlled?
2. What 'increase' in your life could be rooted out by harbored lust or sexual compromise?
3. How does Job's understanding of sin's totality inform pastoral counseling for sexual sin today?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	אָשָׁה	הַיְאָד	עַד	אֶבֶד	לְ	תְּאַכֵּל	כִּי
H3588	<b>For it is a fire</b>	H1931	H5704	<b>to destruction</b>	<b>that consumeth</b>	H3605	
	H784			H11		H398	

  

כָּל	אַתָּה	תִּשְׁרַע
<b>all mine increase</b>	<b>and would root out</b>	H8327

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 6:27** (Parallel theme): Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?