

Job 31:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

Analysis

If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, (שָׁמַחְתִּי כִּי־רָב חַיְלִי) samachti ki-rab cheili)—Job denies the sin of rejoicing in wealth rather than in God who gave it. The verb *samach* (שָׁמַח) means to rejoice or exult, while *chayil* (חַיְל) refers to wealth, resources, or power. The phrase **because mine hand had gotten much** uses *matsa* (מָצָא, gotten/found), suggesting self-sufficiency—the delusion that wealth comes from our own effort rather than God's blessing.

Jesus warned that riches choke the word (Mark 4:19) and make entering the kingdom difficult (Matthew 19:23-24). Paul commanded Timothy to warn the wealthy not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God (1 Timothy 6:17). Job's self-examination reveals a man who possessed vast wealth without falling into the soul-destroying trap of loving it. This distinguishes between enjoying God's gifts gratefully and making them functional idols. The Reformed tradition emphasizes *coram Deo* living—all of life under God's gaze. Job lived this way, stewarding wealth without worshiping it.

Historical Context

Job's wealth (7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 oxen, 500 donkeys—Job 1:3) made him the greatest man of the East. Ancient Near Eastern cultures viewed wealth as divine favor. Job's oath demonstrates he didn't confuse God's blessing with God Himself. This counters the prosperity theology his friends assumed—that wealth

proves righteousness and poverty proves sin. Job enjoyed material blessing without making it ultimate.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you discern the difference between enjoying wealth as God's gift versus rejoicing in wealth itself?
2. What does Job's self-examination teach about the subtle idolatry of self-sufficiency?
3. How does gratitude to God for provision protect against the spiritual danger of wealth?

Interlinear Text

מִצְאָה	הָ	כִּי	בְּ	בְּ	שָׁמַחַ	אָמַ
H518	If I rejoiced	H3588	was great	H2227	because my wealth	H2428
H8055					H3588	H3524
					much	had gotten
					H4672	

מִצְאָה
הָ

and because mine hand

H3027

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:10 (Parallel theme): Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.