

# 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** (שָׂמַחְתִּי כִּי־רַב חֵילִי, samachti ki-rab cheili)—Job denies the sin of rejoicing in wealth rather than in God who gave it. The verb samach (סָמַח) means to rejoice or exult, while chayil (חַיִל) 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 worshipping 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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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אִם	אֶשְׂמַח	כִּי	כִּבְ	חֵילִי	וְכִי	כִּבְיִר	מְצָאָה
H518	<b>If I rejoiced</b>	H3588	<b>was great</b>	<b>because my wealth</b>	H3588	<b>much</b>	<b>had gotten</b>
	H8055		H7227	H2428		H3524	H4672
וְיָדִי							
<b>and because mine hand</b>							
H3027							

## Additional Cross-References

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