

Proverbs 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

Analysis

This proverb contrasts satisfaction based on righteousness versus wickedness. "The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul" describes contentment. Tsaddiq okhel lesova nafsho, צַדִּיק אֶכֶל לְשָׁבָע נַפְשׁו, the righteous eats to the satisfaction of his soul). Sova (שָׁבָע, satisfaction, fullness, sufficiency) describes being genuinely satisfied. The righteous, though they may have little, find their portion satisfying because God blesses it.

"But the belly of the wicked shall want" announces perpetual lack. Uveten resha'im techsar (בְּטַע רְשָׁעִים תַּחֲסֵר), but the belly of the wicked lacks). Beten (בָּטֶן, belly, womb, inward parts) of the wicked techsar (תַּחֲסֵר, lacks, is in want, is diminished). Despite abundance, they remain unsatisfied—always craving more.

The proverb teaches that satisfaction isn't determined by quantity but by God's blessing. Proverbs 10:22 declares: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." The righteous enjoy their modest portions as divine gifts. The wicked, lacking God's blessing, remain empty despite abundance. Ecclesiastes 5:10 warns: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver." Jesus promised those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be filled (Matthew 5:6). Paul learned contentment in all circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13). True satisfaction comes not from material abundance but from relationship with God through Christ, the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

Historical Context

Ancient agrarian life meant most people had simple diets—bread, vegetables, occasional meat. The righteous thanked God for daily bread and found it sufficient. The wicked, even if wealthy with varied diets, remained dissatisfied, always wanting more luxuries. This proverb would resonate in a society where contentment mattered more than consumption. Paul's teaching on godliness with contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8) echoes this wisdom.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Do you find satisfaction in what God has provided, or are you constantly craving more like the wicked whose belly lacks?
2. In what ways does gratitude for God's provision produce greater satisfaction than accumulating abundance?
3. How does feasting on Christ the Bread of Life (John 6:35) satisfy your soul in ways material food never can?

Interlinear Text

רַשְׁעַ יְמִינָה	וְבָטָן	נֶפֶשׁ וְ	לְשׁוֹן	אֶכְלָה	צָדִיק	תְּחִסְרָה:
of the wicked	but the belly	of his soul	to the satisfying	eateth	The righteous	
H7563	H990	H5315	H7648	H398	H6662	

תְּחִסְרָה:
shall want

H2637

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:10 (Parallel theme): The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Proverbs 10:3 (Righteousness): The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

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