

Proverbs 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

Analysis

There is that makes himself rich, yet has nothing; there is that makes himself poor, yet has great riches. Appearances deceive - some feign wealth while actually poor; some appear poor while actually rich. The verse warns against trusting outward appearance versus reality. True wealth isn't displayed possessions but genuine resources. Some sacrifice true riches for appearance of wealth; others possess true wealth without display.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient society's class distinctions and status symbols. Some impoverished themselves maintaining appearances; some wealthy lived modestly. The proverb values substance over show.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Are you sacrificing genuine wealth for appearance of prosperity?

2. How much of your resources go toward displaying wealth versus building actual security?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֹא	מִתְעִשֵּׂר	כִּי
There is	that maketh himself rich	yet
H3426	H6238	H3605
וְאֵלֹא	מִתְרֹשֵׁשׁ	כִּי
yet hath nothing	there is that maketh himself poor	riches hath great
H7326	H1952	H7227

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:17 (Parallel theme): Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Proverbs 12:9 (Parallel theme): He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.

Proverbs 11:24 (Parallel theme): There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (Parallel theme): But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Proverbs 13:11 (Parallel theme): Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

2 Peter 2:19 (Parallel theme): While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Luke 12:21 (Parallel theme): So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

James 2:5 (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org