

Psalms 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

Analysis

This complex verse contrasts the wicked whose 'portion is in this life' with the righteous who have God. The Hebrew 'cheled' (world/lifetime) indicates temporal existence. Their belly is filled with 'treasure' ('tsaphun'—hidden stores), satisfied with worldly prosperity. This anticipates Jesus' warning about storing treasure on earth (Matthew 6:19-20) and the rich fool whose soul was required (Luke 12:20). Reformed theology warns against making this life ultimate.

Historical Context

Reflects the prosperity of the wicked that troubled many psalmists (Psalm 73). Ancient wealth was often measured in children and stored goods—both mentioned here.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what subtle ways do you make this life your 'portion' rather than God?
2. How does eternal perspective change your view of earthly prosperity?

Interlinear Text

מִמֶּנֶת יָם	יָדְךָ אֵל	יְהוָה ה	מִמֶּנֶת יָם	מִן לֵד
From men	which are thy hand	O LORD	From men	of the world
H4962	H3027	H3068	H4962	H2465
וְהָיוּ	בְּחַיִּים	וְצִפִּינְךָ	תִּמְלֵא	בִּטְנָה
which have their portion	in this life	with thy hid	thou fillest	and whose belly
H2506	H2416	H6840	H4390	H990
וְשָׂבַע	בְּנֵי יָם	וְהִנֵּה יָחוּ	תִּתֵּן	
treasure they are full	of children	and leave	the rest	
H7646	H1121	H3240	H3499	
לְעוֹלָלֵיהֶם:				
of their substance to their babes				
H5768				

Additional Cross-References

Job 22:18 (Parallel theme): Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

John 17:14 (Parallel theme): I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Luke 16:25 (Parallel theme): But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luke 16:8 (References Lord): And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

James 5:5 (Parallel theme): Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Psalms 73:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Psalms 39:6 (Parallel theme): Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

Job 12:9 (References Lord): Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

Job 12:6 (Parallel theme): The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth abundantly.

Job 21:21 (Parallel theme): For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?