

Deuteronomy 25:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Analysis

For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God—the Hebrew to'avat YHWH (תוֹעֲבַת יְהוָה) places commercial fraud in the strongest category of divine disapproval, the same term used for idolatry, child sacrifice, sexual perversion, and occult practices (Deuteronomy 7:25-26, 18:9-12, 22:5). **All that do unrighteously** (kol oseh avel, כָּל-עֹשֶׂה עָוֹל) broadens from weights and measures to any injustice or wickedness.

God's 'abomination' designation reveals His character—He is truth, and dishonesty fundamentally opposes His nature. Fraud destroys the image of God in human relations, turning neighbor-love into exploitation. The verse climaxes the weights-and-measures passage by revealing its theological foundation: business ethics aren't merely practical wisdom but acts of worship or sacrilege. How we conduct commerce declares whom we serve.

Historical Context

Given circa 1406 BC as part of covenant stipulations for life in Canaan. Israel would encounter Canaanite commercial culture where fraud was merely bad business if caught, not moral failing. Baal worship separated religion from ethics—fertility gods demanded sacrifices but not justice. Yahweh uniquely demanded both ritual purity and commercial integrity, revealing Himself as Lord of all life, not merely cult. This radical integration of worship and ethics distinguished Israel.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why does God use the strongest possible language ('abomination') for commercial fraud?
2. How does the integration of business ethics and worship challenge modern compartmentalization of 'sacred' and 'secular'?
3. What business practices might constitute 'abomination' today—practices common in secular commerce but opposed to God's character?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	תוֹעֵבִים	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	כָּל	עַשְׂהוּ
H3588	are an abomination	unto the LORD	thy God	H3605	For all that do
	H8441	H3068	H430		H6213
כֵּן	אֵלֶּה	עַשְׂהוּ	עוֹלָם:		
such things	H3605	For all that do	unrighteously		
H428		H6213	H5766		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:1 (Righteousness): A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Deuteronomy 18:12 (References God): For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Deuteronomy 22:5 (References God): The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

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