

Deuteronomy 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Analysis

The command to burn graven images and reject the precious metals adorning them addresses the temptation of materialism in spiritual warfare. The silver and gold on idols could rationalize preserving them ('just for the valuable material'), but God prohibits this. 'Lest thou be snared therein' shows how greed creates spiritual compromise. The language 'abomination to the LORD' (to'evat YHWH) expresses God's intense hatred of idolatry. This teaches that no material gain justifies compromise with evil. Achan's violation of this command (taking Babylonian garments and silver) brought judgment on all Israel (Joshua 7). In spiritual application, believers must reject not just obvious sin but anything that might 'snare'—seemingly harmless pleasures that lead to bondage (1 Corinthians 10:14).

Historical Context

Ancient idols were often overlaid with precious metals and jewels, making them valuable plunder. The temptation to preserve them for their material worth would have been strong, especially for a recently-enslaved people lacking wealth. God's command to destroy them completely demonstrated that covenant faithfulness supersedes economic advantage. Gideon's later violation (creating an ephod from

captured gold, Judges 8:24-27) validated this warning—'it became a snare.' The golden calf incident (Exodus 32) showed Israel's susceptibility to this temptation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What material gains tempt you toward spiritual compromise or association with evil?
2. How can seemingly 'innocent' possessions or pursuits become 'snares' leading to spiritual bondage?
3. In what ways should you apply the principle of burning (completely rejecting) rather than redeeming corrupt things?

Interlinear Text

פְּסִילִים אֱלֹהִים תְּשַׂרְפָּוּ לֹא בָּאֵשׁ תְּחִמֵּד
The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire thou shalt not desire

כְּסֶף כְּזֶה בְּעַלְיָם וְלֹקַחַת פְּנֵילָה
the silver or gold that is on them nor take

תְּקַשׁ כִּי בְּאַתְּ תְּזַעַב תְּזַעַב תְּזַעַב
it unto thee lest thou be snared therein for it is an abomination

קָרְאֵוּ אֱלֹהִים יְהֹוָה
to the LORD of their gods

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 32:20 (Parallel theme): And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

Deuteronomy 17:1 (References God): Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

1 Chronicles 14:12 (References God): And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

Deuteronomy 12:3 (References God): And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

Joshua 7:21 (Parallel theme): When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels

weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Deuteronomy 23:18 (References God): Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 7:5 (Parallel theme): But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

Joshua 7:1 (References Lord): But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

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