

Deuteronomy 7:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

Analysis

The prohibition against bringing 'an abomination into thine house' extends the principle of total separation from idolatry into personal and domestic space. Your house becomes defiled by association with cursed objects. The warning 'lest thou be a cursed thing like it' shows that contamination works by contact—touching what God curses brings you under curse. The emphatic language 'utterly detest... utterly abhor' (shaqqets teshaqqt'sennu... ta'ev te'avennu) uses intensive verbal forms expressing extreme revulsion. This isn't mild disapproval but visceral rejection. The New Testament parallel is separation from works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11) and avoiding all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Believers are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19); allowing sin dwelling-space defiles the temple.

Historical Context

Archaeological excavations of Israelite homes from Iron Age I-II rarely show pagan cultic objects, suggesting general compliance with this command. However, Judges 17-18 (Micah's idols) and prophetic denunciations of household idols (teraphim, Hosea 3:4) indicate recurring violations. Josiah's reform included removing pagan objects from private homes (2 Kings 23:24). The principle extended beyond physical idols—any cursed thing (devoted to destruction) brought judgment if taken (Achan, Joshua 7). This established the principle that God's people must maintain complete separation from anything God has cursed.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What objects, media, or practices in your home might constitute spiritual 'abominations' that should be removed?
2. How does allowing sinful entertainment or influences into your home defile your family's spiritual atmosphere?
3. In what ways can you cultivate an attitude of 'utter detestation' toward sin rather than casual tolerance?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| וְלֹא | תָּבִיא | תּוֹעֵבָה | אֶל | בֵּיתְךָ | וְהָיָה יְתֵר |
| H3808 | Neither shalt thou bring | an abomination | H413 | into thine house | H1961 |
| | H935 | H8441 | | H1004 | |
| | הֵן רָם | כִּמְלֵהוּ | וְנִשְׁקָצָה | וְנִשְׁקָצָה | וְנִתְעַבְּרָה |
| | it for it is a cursed thing | H3644 | detest | detest | abhor |
| | H2764 | | H8262 | H8262 | H8581 |
| וְנִתְעַבְּרָה | כִּי | הֵן רָם | הָיָה: | | |
| abhor | H3588 | it for it is a cursed thing | H1931 | | |
| H8581 | | H2764 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 13:17 (Curse): And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

Isaiah 30:22 (Parallel theme): Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

Ezekiel 11:18 (Parallel theme): And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

Hosea 14:8 (Parallel theme): Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

Romans 2:22 (Parallel theme): Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

Ezekiel 14:7 (Parallel theme): For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: