

Micah 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?

Analysis

Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? God's rhetorical question exposes ongoing corruption. **"Treasures of wickedness"** (אוֹצְרוֹת רָשָׁע, otzrot resha) are wealth acquired through injustice—fraud, exploitation, theft. **"The house of the wicked"** (בֵּית רָשָׁע, beit rasha) refers to households/businesses built on dishonesty. Despite prophetic warnings, Jerusalem's merchants continued exploiting the poor. **"The scant measure"** (אֵיפַת כֶּזַּב, eifat rason) describes using false weights to cheat customers—giving less than paid for. **"Abominable"** (זֵעֻמָּה, ze'umah) expresses God's intense disgust.

Ancient commerce relied on honest weights and measures. Deuteronomy 25:13-16 commands: "Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small...a perfect and just weight shalt thou have." Leviticus 19:35-36 reinforces: "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights...shall ye have." Why? **"I am the LORD your God."** Business ethics aren't secular but sacred—reflecting God's character. Proverbs 11:1 declares: "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."

The principle transcends ancient merchants. Modern equivalents include deceptive advertising, hidden fees, substandard products, insider trading, wage theft, tax evasion, resume fraud, and academic dishonesty. God hates all deception in commerce. James 5:1-6 warns wealthy oppressors: "Behold, the hire of the

labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth." God hears the exploited; He will judge the exploiters.

Historical Context

Economic injustice pervaded 8th century BC Israel and Judah. Amos condemned merchants who "make the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit" (Amos 8:5). Isaiah denounced those who "grind the faces of the poor" (Isaiah 3:15). Micah earlier described rulers who "abhor judgment, and pervert all equity" (Micah 3:9). Wealthy elites enriched themselves through exploitation, assuming religious ritual would appease God. But Micah 6:8 declared God requires justice, mercy, and humility—not sacrifices masking oppression. When Israel persisted, God sent Assyria and Babylon as judgment. Economic injustice isn't merely social failure but covenant violation demanding divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What modern "scant measures"—dishonest business practices, exploitation, or deception—do you encounter or perhaps tolerate in your life?
2. How does recognizing that business ethics reflect God's character shape your approach to work, commerce, and financial dealings?
3. In what ways might you be building "treasures of wickedness" through practices that, while legal, violate biblical standards of justice and honesty?

Interlinear Text

ע וְ	הָאֵשׁ	בֵּית	כָּשׁ ע	אֶצֶר וְ	כֶּשֶׁע
H5750	Are there	in the house	of the wicked	yet the treasures	of wickedness
	H786	H1004	H7563	H214	H7562
תִּמְאָר	וְזָוִן	זְעוּמָה:			
measure	and the scant	that is abominable			
H374	H7332	H2194			

Additional Cross-References

Amos 3:10 (Parallel theme): For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

Proverbs 20:10 (Parallel theme): Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 10:2 (Evil): Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Proverbs 20:23 (Parallel theme): Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

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

Proverbs 21:6 (Parallel theme): The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Joshua 7:1 (Parallel theme): 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.