

Proverbs 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Analysis

False weights and balances were common tools of commercial fraud in the ancient world, and God's abomination of them reveals His character of absolute justice. The Hebrew 'toebah' (abomination) is strong language, used elsewhere for idolatry and sexual immorality, showing that dishonest business practices are moral abominations, not merely ethical lapses. God's delight in 'just weight' (Hebrew 'shalem'—complete, perfect) demonstrates that integrity in daily transactions reflects His own righteous nature.

Historical Context

Ancient markets lacked standardized weights, making fraud easy and common. Mosaic Law explicitly prohibited false measures (Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16), reinforcing that economic justice was central to covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What modern equivalents to 'false balances' exist in business, relationships, or daily life?
2. How does viewing dishonesty as an 'abomination' to God change your perspective on seemingly small compromises?

Interlinear Text

יִמְאֲזֵן	מִרְמָה	תוֹשֵׁב־ת	יְהוָה	וְאֶבֶן	שִׁלְמָה
balance	A false	is abomination	to the LORD	weight	but a just
H3976	H4820	H8441	H3068	H68	H8003

רְצוֹנוֹ:

is his delight

H7522

Additional Cross-References

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

Proverbs 16:11 (Righteousness): A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

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

Hosea 12:7 (Parallel theme): He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.