

Proverbs 15:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Analysis

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. Botsea' batsa 'okher beyto (בּוֹצֵעַ בְּצֻעַ עֲכָר בַּיּוֹתָו, one greedy for gain troubles his house). Akhar (אֲכָר, trouble, disturb, bring calamity) recalls Achan whose greed troubled Israel (Joshua 7:25). Greed destroys families. Vesone matanot yichyeh (וְשָׁנָא מַתָּנוֹת יִחְיֶה, but one hating bribes lives). Mattanot (מתנות, gifts) here means bribes. Resisting corruption brings life. 1 Timothy 6:10 warns love of money is root of all evil. Christ calls to generosity, not greed (Luke 12:15).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern corruption included bribery perverting justice. Exodus 23:8 prohibits bribes: "A gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." Officials who accepted bribes enriched themselves while destroying families and communities. Those refusing bribes, though potentially poorer, lived righteously and enjoyed God's blessing. The principle applies to all ill-gotten gain.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. In what ways might greed for gain be troubling your household through debt, workaholism, or unethical behavior?
2. What 'gifts' (bribes, compromises, shortcuts) should you 'hate' to maintain integrity?
3. How does contentment with godliness (1 Timothy 6:6) liberate you from greedy gain's troubles?

Interlinear Text

עָכָר	בְּ יְתּוֹ	בַּ וְצַדְקָה	בְּ וְצַדְקָה	בְּ צַדְקָה	וְשֹׁנְגָן	מַפְנֵן
troubleth	his own house	He that is greedy	of gain	but he that hateth	gifts	
H5916	H1004	H1214	H1215	H8130		H4979

חַיָּה!

shall live

H2421

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:19 (Parallel theme): So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Exodus 23:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Jeremiah 17:11 (Parallel theme): As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

Proverbs 11:29 (Parallel theme): He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

Deuteronomy 16:19 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Proverbs 28:16 (Parallel theme): The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.

Exodus 18:21 (Parallel theme): Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

Joshua 6:18 (Parallel theme): And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

2 Kings 5:27 (Parallel theme): The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

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