

Proverbs 16:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips
he bringeth evil to pass.

Analysis

He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass. Otsets eynav lachshov tahpukhot (עֵצָץ עֵינָיו לַחֲשׁוֹב תַּהְפֻּכֹת, closing his eyes to devise perverse things). The schemer shuts eyes to concentrate on evil plans. Qorets sefataiv killah ra'ah (קִרַּץ שִׁפְתָּיו כָּלָה רָעָה, compressing his lips he completes evil). Pursued lips indicate determination to accomplish wickedness. The proverb describes deliberate, calculated evil—not impulsive sin but premeditated wickedness. Such people are especially dangerous and condemned (Proverbs 6:12-15). Christ calls to pure hearts and righteous intentions (Matthew 5:8, 27-28).

Historical Context

Body language—shutting eyes, pursing lips—communicated in ancient cultures lacking privacy. These gestures revealed someone plotting. Biblical schemers included Absalom (2 Samuel 15), Haman (Esther 3-5), Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). The righteous recognized such signals and avoided conspirators. Christians must not only avoid evil deeds but evil intentions (Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 12:9).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Are you devising (planning, imagining, fantasizing about) froward things even if not acting on them?
2. How does recognizing that God sees thoughts and intentions (Hebrews 4:12-13) affect what you 'shut your eyes to devise'?
3. What does taking every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) look like practically?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------|----------|-----------|----------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| עֲצָה | עַיִן | לַחֲשׁוֹת | תְּהַפֵּךְ | קִלְיָן | שִׁפְתָּיו | כָּל |
| He shutteth | his eyes | to devise | froward things | moving | his lips | he bringeth |
| H6095 | H5869 | H2803 | H8419 | H7169 | H8193 | H3615 |

רָעָה:

evil

H7451