

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 (עַצְץ עַיִן לְחַשְׁבָּן תַּהְפֹּכָת), closing his eyes to devise perverse things). The schemer shuts eyes to concentrate on evil plans. Qorets sefataiv killah ra'ah (קָרֶץ שְׁפָתִים כָּלָה רָאָה), compressing his lips he completes evil). Pursed 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) foward 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

כָּל הַ שְׁפָט יְהוָה עָצָה בְּלֹעַת לְחַשְׁבָּה וְתִמְהַפְּכָה קְבַר זְמַרְמָרָה קְבַר זְמַרְמָרָה
He shutteth his eyes to devise foward things moving his lips he bringeth
H6095 H5869 H2803 H8419 H7169 H8193 H3615

בְּלֹעַת

evil

H7451

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