

Proverbs 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Analysis

This verse pronounces divine judgment on the proud: 'Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.' Pride of heart (gevah-lev) represents internal arrogance, not merely external display. God abhors it with the strong term 'abomination' (to'evah). The phrase 'though hand join in hand' likely means even if proud people form alliances or feel secure in numbers, they will not escape punishment. Some interpret it as a gesture of oath-taking or covenant-making—even formal agreements cannot protect the proud from God's judgment. This verse echoes 11:21 and establishes that pride will certainly face divine judgment.

Historical Context

Pride was the original sin—Satan's fall and humanity's fall both rooted in proud rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:17; Genesis 3:5). Throughout Israel's history, pride preceded judgment: Pharaoh's pride led to plagues, Nebuchadnezzar's pride to humiliation, Herod's pride to death by worms. God consistently opposes the proud while showing grace to the humble (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What forms of pride lurk in your heart, hidden from others but visible to God who examines the heart?
2. How does the certainty of divine judgment against pride motivate you toward genuine humility?

Interlinear Text

תּוֹעֵבָה	לַיהוָה	כָּל	גִּבּוֹר	לִב	לִיד
is an abomination	to the LORD	H3605	Every one that is proud	in heart	join in hand
H8441	H3068		H1362	H3820	H3027
לִיד	לֹא	יִנָּקָה:			
join in hand	H3808	he shall not be unpunished			
H3027		H5352			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:21 (Parallel theme): Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Proverbs 8:13 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

James 4:6 (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Isaiah 3:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Job 40:12 (Parallel theme): Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

