

Proverbs 26:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Analysis

When he speaks graciously, don't believe him; seven abominations are in his heart. The Hebrew 'chanan qowl' (makes voice gracious) and 'sheba' towebah' (seven abominations) warns against trusting pleasant speech from known deceivers. Seven represents completeness - the dissembler's heart is completely corrupt. Smooth words from evil person shouldn't be believed regardless of how convincing. This requires remembering character despite charming presentation. Wisdom evaluates source, not just message.

Historical Context

Biblical history demonstrates this repeatedly. Absalom's 'gracious' words to Israelites masked rebellious heart (2 Samuel 15:2-6). Judas' 'gracious' kiss identified Jesus for arrest (Matthew 26:48-49). Satan himself appears as 'angel of light' (2 Corinthians 11:14). Discernment requires remembering that evil people can speak beautifully. First John 4:1 commands: 'Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.'

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What gracious-sounding messages are you believing from people whose character you shouldn't trust?
2. How can you maintain discernment when someone speaks charmingly despite evil heart?
3. What 'abominations' might be hiding in hearts that speak most graciously?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֵלֶּה	יְמִינָה	לְזִלְלָה	אֵל	פָּאָמָן	כִּי	בַּזְבֻּן	בְּלִבְנָה
H3588	fair	When he speaketh	H408	believe	H0	H3588		
H2603			H6963		H539			
שֵׁם	בְּעֵבֶד	תְּזַעַב	זַהֲרֵב					
him not for there are seven	abominations	in his heart						
H7651		H8441			H3820			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 12:6 (Faith): For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

Psalms 28:3 (Parallel theme): Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.

Matthew 24:23 (Faith): Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

Psalms 12:2 (Parallel theme): They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

Micah 7:5 (Faith): Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

