

Proverbs 29:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

Analysis

Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul—The choleq im ganav (one who shares with a thief) becomes complicit in crime. Though not the primary perpetrator, the accomplice bears guilt. The verdict is self-destructive: he **hateth his own soul** (sone nafsho)—his actions work against his own welfare.

The specific scenario follows: **he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not**. Under oath (alah, the curse invoked for false testimony per Leviticus 5:1), he hears demands to testify but **bewrayeth it not** (lo yaggid, does not declare, reveal). Fear of retaliation silences him, but silence makes him guilty. His complicity—whether through active partnership or passive concealment—destroys him.

Historical Context

Mosaic law required witnesses to come forward (Leviticus 5:1). Concealing knowledge of crime made one liable. Ancient Israel's communal justice system depended on truthful testimony. Achan's theft brought judgment on Israel until exposed (Joshua 7). New Testament parallels: Ananias and Sapphira's conspiracy (Acts 5), Paul's warning against partaking in others' sins (1 Timothy 5:22).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Are there situations where your silence or complicity enables wrongdoing?
2. How do you balance loyalty to others with the responsibility to expose truth?
3. What does it mean to 'hate your own soul' through self-destructive associations or choices?

Interlinear Text

וְהַזָּהָר	בְּעֵמָה	בְּגַנְבָּה	שׁוֹנֵן אֶל	גַּנְפֵּשׁ וְאֶל הַנְּפָשָׁה	שְׁמַע עַל	אֶל הַנְּפָשָׁה	כַּעֲלֵד	וְהַזָּהָר
Whoso is partner H2505	with a thief H5973	hateth H1590	his own soul H8130	cursing H5315	he heareth H423			

וְבָרַא	בְּרַא
and bewrayeth H3808	and bewrayeth H5046

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 5:1 (Sin): And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

Proverbs 8:36 (Sin): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

Isaiah 1:23 (Parallel theme): Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Proverbs 15:32 (Parallel theme): He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

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