

Proverbs 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Analysis

This verse introduces the famous list of seven things the LORD hates (vv.16-19). 'These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him' uses numerical escalation (six...seven) for emphasis—a common Hebrew poetic device. The seven items that follow (proud look, lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, heart devising wicked plans, feet swift to evil, false witness, sower of discord) reveal God's moral character. What God hates reveals what He is—truthful, just, peaceable. The strong term 'abomination' denotes moral revulsion and covenant violation. This list focuses particularly on sins of speech and interpersonal harm, revealing God's concern for community integrity and truthfulness.

Historical Context

This passage belongs to the instructional section warning against various sins. The numerical saying formula (x, x+1) appears throughout ancient Near Eastern wisdom texts as a mnemonic device. The specific sins listed reflect covenant community values—God abhors what destroys social trust and harms the innocent. Post-exilic Judaism developed extensive ethical teaching based on such lists.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Which of the seven abominations are you most prone to commit, even in subtle forms?
2. How does knowing what God hates shape your understanding of holiness and moral boundaries?

Interlinear Text

שֵׁשׁ	הֵן נָה	שִׂנְאָה	יְהוָה	שִׁבְעָה	תּוֹעֵב וְת
These six	H2007	hate	things doth the LORD	yea seven	are an abomination
H8337		H8130	H3068	H7651	H8441

נִפְשׁוֹ:
unto him
H5315

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:5 (References Lord): The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

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.

Proverbs 11:20 (References Lord): They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Proverbs 3:32 (References Lord): For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

Deuteronomy 25:16 (References Lord): For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Proverbs 17:15 (References Lord): He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 11:1 (References Lord): A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 20:23 (References Lord): Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

Proverbs 30:21 (Parallel theme): For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:

Deuteronomy 23:18 (References Lord): Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.