

Proverbs 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Analysis

A heart that devises wicked imaginations - internal thought-life manufacturing evil schemes. The verse exposes sin's origin in the heart's planning before expression in conduct. Jesus teaches that external sins flow from internal corruption (Matt 15:19). The 'devising' suggests creativity applied to evil - fallen human reason invents new ways of sinning. This requires heart transformation through regeneration.

Historical Context

Continues the list of abominations (v.16-19). Ancient wisdom recognized sin's origin in internal thought-life, requiring not just behavior modification but heart transformation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What wicked imaginations does your heart devise that haven't yet been acted upon?

2. How does the gospel address the heart-level sins that precede outward actions?

Interlinear Text

ל בַּרְשָׁנָה מִחְשָׁבָה וְתַּחַת מִמְּבָרָה וְתַּבְּגַל יְמֵי אָוֹן

An heart that deviseth imaginations wicked feet that be swift

H3820 H2790 H4284 H205 H7272 H4116

לְבָנָה: לְרָאֵץ
in running to mischief

H7323 H7451

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 6:5 (Evil): And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Proverbs 1:16 (Evil): For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

Jeremiah 4:14 (Evil): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Romans 3:15 (Parallel theme): Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Isaiah 59:7 (Evil): Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

Psalms 36:4 (Evil): He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

Proverbs 24:8 (Evil): He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

Zechariah 8:17 (Evil): And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

Micah 2:1 (Evil): Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

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