

Proverbs 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

Analysis

I've decked my bed with coverings, colored linens from Egypt. The Hebrew 'ramad' (spread/deck) and 'chatul' (striped/colored) describe luxurious preparation. Egyptian linens were premium import goods. This verse emphasizes sensory seduction - visual beauty, textile luxury, exotic imports. Seduction appeals to senses and aesthetics. What looks beautiful can be morally deadly.

Historical Context

Egypt represented wealth and luxury to Israel. Egyptian fine linen was renowned ancient world over. By emphasizing Egyptian linens, the seductress signals wealth and sophistication. Luxury and aesthetics aren't inherently evil, but they can facilitate seduction when divorced from moral discernment. Beauty seduces when separated from truth and goodness.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do aesthetic beauty and sensory pleasure sometimes override moral judgment?
2. What luxuries or sophistication tempt you to compromise wisdom for experience?
3. How can you appreciate beauty without being seduced by it into moral compromise?

Interlinear Text

מִרְבָּדִים	רַב דָּתִי	עַרְשִׁי	חֲטָט וְזָרְזָר	אֵט וְזָרְזָר
with coverings	I have decked	my bed	of tapestry with carved	works with fine linen
H4765	H7234	H6210	H2405	H330
מִצְרַיִם:				
of Egypt				
H4714				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 19:9 (Parallel theme): Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.

Ezekiel 27:7 (References Egypt): Fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.