

Psalm 36:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

Analysis

Plotting evil 'upon his bed' reveals premeditation—the wicked use rest times for scheming rather than reflection or prayer. 'He setteth himself in a way that is not good' indicates deliberate choice and persistence in evil direction. The climax 'he abhorreth not evil' shows complete moral inversion—not merely doing wrong but losing revulsion toward it. This describes total depravity where conscience is seared (1 Timothy 4:2) and evil becomes normalized.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom recognized the bed as a place of meditation (Psalm 4:4, 63:6). The wicked pervert this opportunity, using solitude for plotting rather than examining their ways before God.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What occupies your thoughts during quiet moments—worship, worry, or wrongdoing?

2. How can you cultivate holy abhorrence of evil rather than accommodation?

Interlinear Text

לֹא־צָרַע־בְּבִלְתִּים
mischievous He deviseth H205 H2803 H5921
עַל־מִשְׁכָּב־בְּבִלְתִּים
upon his bed H4904 H320 H5921
עַל־! תִּצְאֵב־מִשְׁכָּב־בְּבִלְתִּים
he setteth himself in a way H1870 H3808 H1870 H3808

לֹא־צָרַע־בְּבִלְתִּים
that is not good not evil H2896 H7451 H3808 H3988 he abhorreth

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:16 (Parallel theme): For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

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.

Isaiah 65:2 (Good): I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Romans 12:9 (Evil): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Revelation 2:2 (Evil): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Psalms 97:10 (Evil): Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Acts 23:12 (Parallel theme): And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

Romans 1:32 (Parallel theme): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Matthew 27:1 (Parallel theme): When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

Amos 5:15 (Evil): Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

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