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The Seven Things The Lord Hates



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† This passage in Proverbs 6:16-19 isn't a random list, it's a covenant exposure of the heart condition of Israel under the Law, revealing what God detests in those living in rebellion against Him (Proverbs 6:16-19)

† From the fulfilled perspective, this was spoken directly to Israel, but it reveals God's unchanging character, so it still

exposes the same kind of heart God rejects today (Malachi 3:6)

† What we're seeing here isn't just behavior, it's the inward condition that leads to judgment, especially leading up to AD 70 when Israel's leadership fully embodied these things (Matthew 23:27-28)

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things that the LORD hates,
Seven that are an abomination to Him:
Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,
A false witness who declares lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Proverbs 16:5

Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Be assured, he will not go unpunished.

† This directly confirms that pride, haughty eyes, is something God calls an abomination

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,
But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

† This reinforces that lying isn't minor, it's something God detests

Isaiah 59:7

Their feet run to evil,
And they hurry to shed innocent blood;
Their thoughts are thoughts of wrongdoing,
Devastation and destruction are in their paths.

† This ties directly to running to evil and shedding innocent blood

† What's going on here isn't a random list, it's describing the character of those living in rebellion against God, especially within Israel under the Law.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this was spoken to Israel under the Old Covenant, because Proverbs is part of their covenant wisdom literature. It defined righteousness and wickedness within that system.

† But that doesn't mean it has no relevance to us today.

† These aren't ceremonial laws or temporary ordinances, these are moral realities rooted in God's nature. God doesn't change, so what He hated then, He still hates now.

† So the answer is both:

† He was speaking directly to them, Israel under the Law, but the principles reveal God's character, so they apply to all people in every generation.

† Now here's the key part people miss.

† This list isn't just about outward actions, it exposes the heart condition:

† Pride, deception, violence, scheming, eagerness to do evil, false testimony, division.

† That's exactly what Jesus confronted in His generation, especially among the leadership of Israel before the judgment of AD 70. They embodied these very things.

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?"

† This explains why all seven of these sins flow from within

Micah 2:1

Woe to those who devise wrongdoing,
Who practice evil on their beds!
When morning comes, they do it,
Because it is in the power of their hands.

† This shows evil is planned, not accidental

† So this passage isn't just a moral checklist, it's a mirror showing what covenant unfaithfulness looked like leading up to their judgment.

† Today, we're not under that Old Covenant system, but we are in Christ, and His people are called to walk in truth, humility, and love, the opposite of everything listed there.

† So no, this isn't about picking one "worst sin" as the seventh, it's a complete picture of what God detests, especially the last one, sowing discord among brothers, which destroys covenant unity.

† That one hits hard even today.

† If you want to sum it up simply:

† It was written to them, it reveals God's character, and it still exposes the kind of heart God rejects, whether then or now.

† The structure of six, yes seven, isn't ranking sins, it's emphasizing completeness, showing a full picture of covenant

rebellion (Amos 1:3)

† Haughty eyes point to pride, which was at the core of Israel's leadership, they exalted themselves while rejecting their Messiah (John 5:44)

† Pride is directly called an abomination, confirming haughty eyes as something God rejects (Proverbs 16:5)

† God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, showing the contrast of what He desires (James 4:6)

† A lying tongue and false witness reflect deception, which defined those who rejected Christ and twisted truth to maintain power (Matthew 26:59-60)

† Lying lips are an abomination, reinforcing the seriousness of deception (Proverbs 12:22)

† Don't lie to one another, because that belongs to the old man, not life in Christ (Colossians 3:9)

† Hands that shed innocent blood directly connects to the killing of the prophets and ultimately Christ Himself (Matthew 23:34-35)

† A heart that devises wicked schemes shows this isn't accidental sin, it's deliberate planning against God and His people (Micah 2:1)

† The heart is deceitful above all things, explaining why these behaviors flow from within (Jeremiah 17:9)

† Feet swift to run to mischief shows eagerness toward evil, not hesitation, this was a generation rushing toward judgment (Isaiah 59:7)

† Their feet are swift to shed blood, confirming the same pattern of rebellion (Romans 3:15)

† A false witness is condemned in the Law itself, showing this was foundational truth (Exodus 20:16)

† The final one, sowing discord among brethren, is called an abomination because it destroys covenant unity, tearing apart what God established (Psalm 133:1)

† Those who cause divisions are to be marked and avoided, showing how serious this sin is (Romans 16:17)

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

† This shows how serious sowing discord is, it requires separation

James 3:16

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

† This connects directly to the chaos caused by division

† This last one hits the hardest because it reflects the division within Israel, leading to their destruction, brother against brother, city against itself (Luke 21:9-10)

† This isn't about one worst sin, it's a complete exposure of a corrupt heart that brings judgment

Historical References

† Josephus records the internal division among the Jews before AD 70, describing factions destroying one another from within, fulfilling this very principle (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5)

† Tacitus also wrote of the chaos and internal strife within Jerusalem, showing how discord consumed the nation before its fall (Tacitus, Histories 5.12)

† Early writers like Eusebius noted the moral corruption and division among the people leading up to the destruction, aligning with what Proverbs describes (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not under the Old Covenant system, but God's character hasn't changed, what He hated then, He still hates now (Hebrews 13:8)

† This passage exposes the heart, not just actions, pride, deception, division, these still destroy people and communities today (James 3:14-16)

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

† This proves these same heart issues still define those outside of Christ

Ephesians 4:31-32

All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

† This shows the exact opposite of the seven things God hates

† In Christ, we're called to the opposite, humility, truth, peace, and unity, walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh (Ephesians 4:1-3)

† Sowing discord still destroys fellowship today, and it's something believers must take seriously because it tears apart the body (Romans 16:17)

† This isn't about fear, it's about alignment, walking in the life Christ has already established, not returning to the patterns of rebellion

Q & A Appendix

Q What are the Seven Things The Lord Hates?

A Proverbs 6:16-19 lists them: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brothers (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Q Is this passage speaking only to Israel?

A Yes, it was written to Israel under the Law, but it reveals God's character, so it applies to all people (Malachi 3:6; Romans 2:28-29)

Q Is the seventh sin worse than the others?

A No, the structure shows completeness, not ranking, but it highlights how destructive division is among God's people

(Proverbs 6:16-19)

Q Why is sowing discord called an abomination?

A Because it destroys unity among God's people, something He values deeply (Psalm 133:1; Romans 16:17)

Q How does this connect to AD 70?

A Israel's leadership embodied these sins, especially pride, deception, and division, leading directly to their judgment (Matthew 23:34-38; Luke 19:43-44)

Q Does this still matter for believers today?

A Yes, not as Law, but as a reflection of God's nature, we're called to walk opposite of these things in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Q What is the opposite of these seven things?

A Humility, truth, peace, and unity, as seen in how believers are called to live in Christ (Ephesians 4:31-32; Galatians 5:22-23)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 16:5; Proverbs 12:22; Isaiah 59:7; Jeremiah 17:9; Micah 2:1; Amos 1:3; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 23:27-28, 34-35; John 5:44; Matthew 26:59-60; Romans 3:15; Exodus 20:16; Psalm 133:1; Romans 16:17; James 3:16; Luke 21:9-10; Hebrews 13:8; James 3:14-16; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31-32; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 2:28-29; Luke 19:43-44; Galatians 5:22-23

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5; Tacitus, Histories 5.12; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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