

# OT Verses on Covetousness

## Word Study on Covet

	Hebrew Word	Translation (KJV)	Reference	Verse (NKJV)	Context	Insights
1	'avah	desire	1 Samuel 2:16	And <i>if</i> the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; <i>then</i> you may take <i>as much</i> as your heart <b>desires</b> ," he would then answer him, " <i>No</i> , but you must give <i>it</i> now; and if not, I will take <i>it</i> by force."	Wickedness of Eli's Sons	Quoting the law. After sacrificing the prescribed portion of the sacrifice, the priest was allowed to take whatever portion of the meat of the sacrifice for his family and himself. Eli's sons were taking the choicest parts BEFORE giving God his portion.
2	'avah	desire	2 Samuel 3:21	Then Abner said to David, "I will arise and go, and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart <b>desires</b> ." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.	Abner Joins forces with David	This covenant between David and Abner was peace treaty between North and South Israel. David's desire was righteous because he wanted to rule over a unified Israel.
3	'avah	desire	1 Kings 11:37	So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart <b>desires</b> , and you shall be king over Israel.	God promises Jeroboam kingship over 10 tribes	The desire for Jeroboam is only righteous if that desire stays within the boundaries that God gave him, specifically rule of the 10 tribes of Israel. God reserved rule over the two southern tribes to the throne of David.
4	'avah	desire	Job 23:13	But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul <b>desires</b> , that He does.	Job is declaring that Greatness of God	God has wants, but, of course, His wants are righteous in nature. This helps to show that <b>'avah</b> (desire) is neither inherently good or inherently evil.
5	'avah	desire	Psalms 45:11	So the King will greatly <b>desire</b> your beauty; Because he is your Lord, worship Him.	A Love song	<b>'avah</b> is associated with the physical love between a man and a woman.
6	'avah	desire	Psalms 132:13	For the LORD has chosen Zion; He had <b>desired</b> it for His dwelling place.	A song about David bringing the tabernacle to Jerusalem	God had a deep desire to make Jerusalem His "permanent" residence shows that coveting righteous things is not wrong.  Desire for property
7	'avah	desire	Psalms 132:14	This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have <b>desired</b> it.	A song about David bringing the tabernacle to Jerusalem	God had a deep desire to make Jerusalem His "permanent" residence shows that coveting righteous things is not wrong.  Desire for property
8	'avah	desire	Proverbs 13:4	The soul of a lazy man <b>desires</b> , and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.	Standalone Proverb	Desire alone is worthless, it takes some work to make. The inference here is that soul of the diligent also has desires, and that he will achieve them.
9	'avah	desire	Proverbs 21:10	The soul of the wicked <b>desires</b> evil; His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.	Standalone Proverb	A person's desire can consume him so that he will not even spare his neighbor if he gets in his way.
10	'avah	desire	Proverbs 23:3	Do not <b>desire</b> his delicacies, For they are deceptive food	How to act when invited with people more powerful than you	This is a warning to exercise restraint when confronted with the luxuries of someone more powerful/richer than you.  Daniel is the classic illustration of one who lived by this proverb (Daniel 1). Desire for Food
11	'avah	desire	Proverbs 23:6	Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor <b>desire</b> his delicacies; For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.	How to act when invited with a penny pincher	This person invites someone to enjoy his courtesies, feigning generosity, while really being upset about having to spend the money to feed you.  Desire for Food.

12	'avah	desire	Proverbs 24:1	Do not be envious of evil men, Nor <b>desire</b> to be with them	Wisdom about choosing your friends	Be concerned with why you want to be with you and make sure you are not desiring to be with those that may look like they have it all, but are really evil.
13	'avah	desire	Ecclesiastes 6:2	A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he <b>desires</b> ; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction.	The vain of gain and honor	Desire for companionship. The Lord gives and takes away fro His own purpose. So, blessings of God cannot be assumed or taken for granted. But they should be enjoyed with thankfulness while they are available. Also, assuming that gain was ill-gotten does not allow one to honor God for His gifts. Desire for gain.
14	'avah	desire	Isaiah 26:9	With my soul I have <b>desired</b> You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness	A song that the redeemed remnant will sing to God	The righteous long for God at all times.  Desire for God.
15	'avah	desire	Jeremiah 17:16	As for me, I have not hurried away from being a shepherd who follows You, Nor have I <b>desired</b> the woeful day; You know what came out of my lips; It was right there before You.	Jeremiah is praying that God will deliver him from his enemies	Jeremiah is laying out his case as to why he should be saved. Here he lays claim that he has stayed with God and accepted his role a prophet to the people. He also shows that in his heart, he has not wanted the destruction of the people.
16	'avah	desire	Amos 5:18	Woe to you who <b>desire</b> the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.	The Day of the Lord	Even the wicked wanted the Day of the Lord to come, mistakenly thinking that it would bring victory instead of judgment.  Desire for judgment.
17	'avah	desire	Micah 7:1	Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul <b>desires</b> .	Micah laments the circumstances of his day	Micah compares himself to a vinedresser who comes to his field gather harvest only to find that there is no fruit.  Desire for food.
18	'avah	lust	Numbers 11:4	Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to <b>intense craving</b> ; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"	Israelites complain about only having manna so God sends Quail	After over a year of eating manna in the wilderness, the people wanted the food of Egypt once again. God responds by sending quail and then striking the Israelites with a plague. Be content with the LORD provides. Desire for food.
19	'avah	lust	Numbers 11:34	So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to <b>craving</b> .	Israelites complain about only having manna so God sends Quail	Kibroth Hatta <b>avah</b> literally means: Graves of Craving  Be content with what the LORD provides.  Desire for food.
20	'avah	lust	Deuteronomy 12:20	When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because you long to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your heart <b>desires</b> .	Moses is reciting the Law prior to entry in the Promised Land.	Desire for food.  In this case, the desire for meat is OK (c.f. 11:4,34) because God has provided it. It is important to note that circumstances can change whether a desire is righteous.
21	'avah	lust	Deuteronomy 14:26	And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart <b>desires</b> ; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.	Tithing principles	Part of the Fellowship offering was the ability to eat the food after the offering. So, when a person from afar travels to the appointed place to give the offering, he can buy whatever he wants to offer as the offering. Desire for Food.
22	'avah	longed	2 Samuel 23:15	And David said with <b>longing</b> , "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"	David wants water from home	Desire for food.
23	'avah	longed	1 Chronicles 11:17	And David said with <b>longing</b> , "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"	David wants water from home	Desire for food.

24	'avah	Covet	Deuteronomy 5:21	You shall not <b>covet</b> your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'	Ten Commandments	Prohibits the lusting after a already-spoken for woman and property that is already owned by others.  Desire for property
25	'avah	Covet	Proverbs 21:26	He <b>covets</b> greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare.	How "Scoffer," a proud and haughty man, acts	The sin of covetousness marks the lazy man just as the virtue of sacrificial giving marks the righteous man (c.f. 13:4) A lazy man is not willing to work for his gain.  Desire for gain
26	chamad	Desire	Genesis 3:6	So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree <b>desirable</b> to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.	The Fall	Satan taps into Eve's desire to be made wise to deceive her into eating the forbidden fruit.  Desire for power.
27	chamad	Desire	Exodus 34:24	For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man <b>covet</b> your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.	The Covenant Renewed (after the Golden Calf)	God promises that if they obey His commands, He will give the Israelites the land. On top of that, He will ensure that other nobody will seek to take land/property during those times of pilgrimage. If you are faithful to God's calling, He will protect your property. Desire for Property
28	chamad	Desire	Deut. 5:21	You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not <b>desire</b> your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'	Ten Commandments	Prohibits the lusting after a already-spoken for woman and property that is already owned by others.  Desire for property
29	chamad	Desire	Deut 7:25	You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not <b>covet</b> the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.	Recitation of the Covenant prior to entering the Promised Land	God commands the Israelites to completely destroy the idols of the Canaanites, even destroying the gold and silver that covered them. It would be easy to rationalize that it is OK to keep the valuable part of the idol and destroy the rest. But God didn't want any part of the idol preserved. Desire for wealth.
30	chamad	Desire	Job 20:20	Because he knows no quietness in his heart, He will not save anything he <b>desires</b> .	Job's friend (Zophar) exposes the path of the Wicked	When a wicked man does achieve something that he desired, he finds no contentment from what he has gained so he does not keep it. There is no appreciation for that which he worked for.  Desire for gain.
31	chamad	Desire	Psalms 19:10	More to be <b>desired</b> are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb	A song about the Law of the Lord	It is good to desire to know and live the Laws of the Lord.  Desire for the Word of the Lord.
32	chamad	Desire	Psalms 68:16	Why do you fume with envy, you mountains of many peaks? This is the mountain which God <b>desires</b> to dwell in; Yes, the LORD will dwell in it forever.		Even God has desires.  Desire for God to reside on Mt. Zion.
33	chamad	Desire	Proverbs 12:12	The wicked <b>covet</b> the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.	Standalone Proverb	Refers to the desire for booty gained by the schemes of the wicked, contrasted with a simple life of obedience that produces blessing.  Desire for wealth.
34	chamad	Desire	Proverbs 21:20	There is <b>desirable</b> treasure, And oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man squanders it.	Standalone Proverb	Wise men can accumulate wealth.
35	chamad	Desire	Isaiah 1:29	For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth tree Which you have <b>desired</b> ; And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens Which you have chosen.	Isaiah preaches about Jerusalem's upcoming punishment because of their disobedience	Terebinth trees and gardens were settings where Israel practiced idolatrous worship. When the punishment comes, people will be ashamed that they wanted that kind of worship.  Desire for (immoral) gods

36	chamad	Desire	Isaiah 53:2	For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, <del>There is no beauty that we should desire Him.</del>	The Servant	The Servant comes from lowly conditions and does not appear to be desirable.  Desire for a person
37	chamad	covet	Exodus 20:17 (2)	<del>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."</del>	Ten Commandments	Prohibits the lusting after a already-spoken for woman and property that is already owned by others.  Desire for property
38	chamad	covet	Joshua 7:21	When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I <b>coveted</b> them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."	Achan's Sin	Achan saw some plunder that God had prohibited the Israelites from looting, but he wanted it anyway.  Desire for Wealth
39	chamad	covet	Micah 2:2	They <b>covet</b> fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.	Micah denounces sins against other men	Micah accuses the affluent of using their power to take property by the use of force.  Desire for property/wealth
40	chamad	delight	Proverbs 1:22	How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners <b>delight</b> in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.	Wisdom emphasizes the serious consequences that come to those that reject it	Some people don't want wisdom, they seek out ways to scorn.
41	chamad	delight	Songs 2:3	Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, So is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great <b>delight</b> , And his fruit was sweet to my taste.	The woman desires the man	There is joy and desire in the relationship between these two people.  Desire for a lover.
42	chamad	pleasant	Genesis 2:9	And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.	God creates the Garden of Eden	God planted trees that were desirable for food.  Desire for Food.
43	chamad	beauty	Psalms 39:11	When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his <b>beauty</b> melt away like a moth; Surely every man is vapor. Selah	A Prayer for Forgiveness	David is saying that when a man is under God's discipline, that he makes the man's desires for things other than God no longer seem to be important.
44	chamad	lust	Proverbs 6:25	Do not <b>lust</b> after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.	Beware of Adultery	Sexual sin is rooted in lust (imagination of the sinful act), as implied in Ex. 20:17 and addressed by Jesus in Matt. 5:28.  Desire for sex
45	chamad	delectable Thing	Isaiah 44:9	Those who make an image, all of them are useless, And their <b>precious things</b> shall not profit; They are their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed.	Preaching against Idolatry	The idol makers will not profit from their craft.

