

ENVY (or the evil eye)

Definition: painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage; an object of envious notice or feeling <his new car made him the envy of his friends>

Matt 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?
Mark 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:
Mark 7:22 In the New American Standard Bible evil eye is translated with envy.
Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.
Note: In many Mediterranean and Eastern countries the concept of the evil eye is an accepted and widespread practice in daily life.

Envy is forbidden in the Bible— Proverbs 3:31; Rom 13:13

Proverbs 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Envy is inconsistent with the gospel and leads to every evil work —Jam 3:14-16

Jam 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Envy: Produced by foolish disputation — 1 Tim 6:4;

1 Tim 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Envy is excited by good deeds of others -- Ecc 4:4;

Ecc 4:4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Envy is a work of the flesh--Gal 5:21; Jam 4:5;

Gal 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
Jam 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Envy is hurtful to the envious--Job 5:2;

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

None can stand before Envy:--Proverbs 27:4;

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

Envy is a proof of carnal-mindedness -- 1Cor 3:3;

1 Cor 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Envy hinders growth in grace—1 Pet 2:1-2;

1 Pet 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

The wicked are full of Envy:--Rom 1:29;

Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

The wicked live in Envy:--Tit 3:3;

Tit 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Prosperity of the wicked should not excite Envy:--Psa 37:1; Psa 37:35; Psa 73:3; Psa 73:17-20;

Psa 37:1 A Psalm of David.> Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

The wicked will have punishment of Envy:--Isa 26:11;

Isa 26:11 LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

Envy Exemplified

The Envy of Cain--Gen 4:5:

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Envy of Laban's sons--Gen 31:1:

Gen 31:1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of *that* which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory.

Envy of Joseph's brethren--Gen 37:11:

Gen 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Envy: Joshua--Num 11:28-29:

Num 11:28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, *one* of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them. 29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, *and* that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

Envy: Aaron and others--Num 12:2:

Num 12:2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard *it*.

Envy of Korah, & company-- Num 16:3; Psa 106:16-18

Num 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take* too much upon you, seeing all the congregation *are* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

Psa 106:13-18 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul. 16 They envied Moses also in the camp, *and* Aaron the saint of the LORD. 17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. 18 And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

Envy of Saul--1Sa 18:8-9

1 Sam 18:8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed (the evil eye of envy) David from that day and forward.

Envy of Sanballat, &c--Neh 2:10:

Nehemiah 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of *it*, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Envy of Haman--Est 5:13-14

Esther 5:13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. 14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Envy of the Edomites--Eze 35:11:

Ezek 35:11 Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee.

Envy of the Princes of Babylon -- Dan 6:3-4:

Dan 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. 4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Envy: Chief Priests--Mar 15:10:

Mark 15:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

Envy of the Jews--Acts 13:45; Acts 17:5:

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Acts 17:5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy,

Conclusion

Mat 6:23 But if thine **eye be evil**, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness! (References to evil eyes, Deut. 15:9; 28:54, 26; Prov 23:6)