

# Deuteronomy 31:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.

## Analysis

**And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought**—God's reiteration emphasizes certainty and just cause. The Hebrew anochi haster astir (אָנוֹכִי הַסְתֵּר אַסְתִּיר) uses emphatic construction: 'I will surely hide' or 'I will utterly hide.' **In that they are turned unto other gods**—the specific sin meriting face-hiding: idolatry, abandoning Yahweh for false gods. The consequence matched the crime—they turned from God, so God turned from them.

This verse clarifies that divine abandonment isn't arbitrary or harsh but proportional justice. Israel's choice to turn away from God resulted in God's withdrawal from them. The pattern appears throughout Scripture: persistent rejection of God ultimately results in God honoring that rejection (Romans 1:24, 26, 28: 'God gave them over'). Yet even here, the judgment served remedial purpose—suffering in God's absence was meant to drive Israel back to Him, the pattern throughout Judges and Kings.

## Historical Context

Spoken circa 1406 BC, fulfilled repeatedly in Israel's history. The most complete 'face-hiding' occurred in the Babylonian exile (586-516 BC), when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, the sacrificial system ceased, and the nation was removed from the Promised Land. Yet even in exile, prophets like Ezekiel and Daniel ministered, showing God's presence wasn't entirely absent. The exile

eventually ended, but only Christ's coming and the Spirit's indwelling fully restored God's presence to His people in unbreakable covenant.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment (hiding His face) match Israel's sin (turning to other gods)? Why is this just?
2. What's the difference between remedial judgment (meant to restore) and final judgment (eternal separation)?
3. How should Christians respond when they sense God's presence withdrawn due to persistent sin?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל עַל הַהָּא בַּיּוֹם אָסַת יְהָוָה פָּנָי

H595

H5640

And I will surely

my face

in that day

H1931

H5921

H3605

אָשָׁר בְּרַע הָ

for all the evils

H834

which they shall have wrought

H6213

בָּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר

H3588

בָּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר

they are turned

H6437

אֱלֹהִים אֲלֹהִים אֲלֹהִים

H413

gods

unto other

H430

H312

