

Isaiah 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.

Analysis

"Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD." This verse provides sobering contrast to verse 9—while some learn righteousness through God's judgments, the wicked remain unteachable even when shown favor. **"Let favour be shewed to the wicked"** (יִחַן/יִשָּׁע/yuchan rasha)—yuchan means to be shown favor, given grace, treated mercifully. Rasha is the wicked, ungodly, morally wrong person. Even when God extends undeserved kindness, **"yet will he not learn righteousness"** (בַּל-לָמַד/bal-lamad tzedeq)—bal is a strong negative (not, never). The wicked refuse to learn (lamad) righteousness (tzedeq) despite favorable conditions.

"In the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly" (בְּעֵרֶץ נֶכְחוֹחַ/be'eretz nekhochot ye'awwel)—even when placed in eretz nekhochot (a land of uprightness, straightness, equity), the wicked ye'awwel (deals unjustly, acts perversely). The environment doesn't determine the heart. Surrounded by righteousness, the wicked still choose wickedness. **"And will not behold the majesty of the LORD"** (וְיִרְאֶה גְאוּת יְהוָה/val-yireh ge'ut YHWH)—bal-yireh (will not see) indicates willful blindness. Ge'ut means majesty, glory, excellence, exaltation. The wicked refuse to see God's glory even when manifested. This is judicial hardening—the settled refusal to acknowledge God despite abundant evidence.

Historical Context

Isaiah witnessed this pattern repeatedly. King Ahaz refused to trust God despite miraculous signs offered (Isaiah 7:10-13). Israel experienced God's blessings during prosperous times but plunged deeper into idolatry and injustice. Pharaoh's hardened heart despite ten plagues exemplified this (Exodus 7-12). Jesus later confronted the same problem: "Though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him" (John 12:37). Paul describes this judicial hardening in Romans 1:18-32—repeated rejection of truth leads to God giving people over to their chosen blindness. This warns that grace can be resisted to the point of no return.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge the assumption that improved circumstances or more evidence will convince unbelievers?
2. What is the difference between those who 'learn righteousness' from God's judgments (v.9) and the wicked who won't learn despite favor (v.10)?
3. In what areas might you be experiencing God's favor while still dealing unjustly or refusing to see His majesty?

Interlinear Text

יֵם	רָשָׁע	וְלֹא	לִמּוֹד	צְדִיקָה	בְּאֶרֶץ
Let favour be shewed	to the wicked	and will not	learn	righteousness	in the land
H2603	H7563	H1077	H3925	H6664	H776
נֹכַח וְ	יַעֲוֶה לְ	וְלֹא	יִרְאֶה	גִּיא וְ	יְהוָה:
of uprightness	will he deal unjustly	and will not	behold	the majesty	of the LORD
H5229	H5765	H1077	H7200	H1348	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 11:7 (Parallel theme): And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

Revelation 2:21 (Parallel theme): And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Psalms 106:43 (Parallel theme): Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

Proverbs 1:32 (Parallel theme): For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Jeremiah 2:7 (Parallel theme): And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

Ecclesiastes 3:16 (Righteousness): And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.

Exodus 8:15 (References Lord): But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 9:34 (Parallel theme): And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Parallel theme): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Micah 2:10 (Parallel theme): Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.

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