

# Isaiah 26:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**"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."** This verse continues the theme of willful blindness receiving ultimate judgment. **"LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see"** (יְהוָה יָדָהּ בַּל־יִחְזְיוּן / YHWH ramah yadkha bal-yechezyun)—ramah yadkha means "Your hand is lifted up," signifying God's power raised for action, either to strike in judgment or deliver His people. Bal-yechezyun (they will not see) indicates willful blindness to God's obvious activity. Even when God's hand is visibly raised, the wicked refuse to acknowledge His work.

**"But they shall see, and be ashamed"** (וְיִחְזְיוּ וְיִבְשׁוּ / yechezu veyevoshu)—eventually their blindness will be overcome. Yechezu (they shall see) uses the same verb, but now forced seeing rather than willful blindness. Veyevoshu (and be ashamed) means to be put to shame, confounded, disappointed, humiliated. What they refused to see voluntarily, they will see involuntarily and be ashamed. **"For their envy at the people"** (אֶת־אֲנִי וְאֶת־עַמִּי / qin'at am)—qin'at means jealousy, envy, zeal. They envied God's people, resented God's favor toward them, and opposed His purposes.

**"Yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them"** (אֶשׁ צָרֶיךָ תֹאכְלֵם / af-esh tzareykha tokhlem)—af (yea, indeed) emphasizes what follows. Esh (fire) represents God's consuming judgment. Tzareykha (Your enemies) identifies them

by their hostility to God. Tokhlem (shall devour them) uses the verb "to eat, consume, destroy utterly." The fire prepared for God's enemies will consume those enemies themselves—a grim irony of self-destructive rebellion.

## Historical Context

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Throughout Israel's history, enemies who opposed God's people ultimately faced divine judgment—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon. Each empire that lifted itself against God was brought down. This pattern continues through church history—persecuting powers eventually fall while the church survives. The verse anticipates final judgment when every knee will bow and every tongue confess Christ's lordship (Philippians 2:10-11), including those who refused to see His majesty. Revelation 20:15 describes the lake of fire consuming God's enemies. What begins as willful blindness ends in forced recognition too late for repentance.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does it reveal about human depravity that people can refuse to see God's hand even when 'lifted up' in obvious action?
2. How should the certainty of eventual forced recognition and shame motivate evangelism and warning?
3. What is the relationship between envy of God's people and opposition to God Himself?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה ה	כָּמָה	יָדְךָ	בֵּל	יִקְוּ ו	יִקְוּ ו
<b>LORD</b>	<b>is lifted up</b>	<b>when thy hand</b>	H1077	<b>but they shall see</b>	<b>but they shall see</b>
H3068	H7311	H3027		H2372	H2372
וַיִּבֹשׁ	קִנְיָת	עַם	אֶף	אֵשׁ	צָרְ יָבִיב
<b>and be ashamed</b>	<b>for their envy</b>	<b>at the people</b>	H637	<b>yea the fire</b>	<b>of thine enemies</b>
H954	H7068	H5971		H784	H6862
תֹּאכְלֵם:					
<b>shall devour</b>					
H398					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 10:27** (Parallel theme): But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

**Isaiah 5:24** (References Lord): Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

**Micah 5:9** (Parallel theme): Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.