

Isaiah 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

Analysis

LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us (יְהוָה תִּשְׁפֹּט-שְׁלוֹם לָנוּ / YHWH tishpot-shalom lanu)—The verb שָׁפַט (shaphat) means "to establish, ordain, or appoint." Isaiah affirms that shalom (peace, wholeness, comprehensive well-being) is God's sovereign gift, not human achievement. This peace encompasses reconciliation with God, inner tranquility, and eschatological restoration.

For thou also hast wrought all our works in us (כִּי גַם כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂינוּ פָעַלְתָּ לָנוּ / ki gam kol-ma'asenu pa'alta lanu)—This declaration of monergism anticipates Paul's theology: "It is God who works in you both to will and to do" (Philippians 2:13). The verb פָּעַל (pa'al, "to work, accomplish") credits God as the ultimate source of all righteous deeds. Israel's faithfulness, like Christian sanctification, flows from divine enablement, not self-effort. This guards against both legalistic pride and antinomian passivity.

Historical Context

Isaiah 26 is part of the "Isaiah Apocalypse" (chapters 24-27), prophetic hymns anticipating God's final judgment and salvation. Written during the Assyrian threat (late 8th century BC), these chapters look beyond immediate historical crises to ultimate cosmic restoration. The emphasis on divine sovereignty over peace and human works countered Judah's temptation to secure safety through political alliances rather than trust in YHWH.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God 'ordains peace' rather than us achieving it change your approach to anxiety and conflict?
2. What's the relationship between God working 'all our works in us' and our responsibility to obey? How do we avoid both passivity and self-reliance?
3. In what areas of life are you tempted to take credit for spiritual fruit that God has actually produced in you?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	תִּשְׁפֹּת	שָׁלוֹם	לְנוֹ	כִּי	גָ	כָּל	מַעֲשֵׂי יָנוּ
LORD	thou wilt ordain	peace	H0	H3588	H1571	H3605	all our works
H3068	H8239	H7965					H4639
פָּעַלְתָּ		לָנוּ:					
for us for thou also hast wrought		H0					
H6466							

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:10 (Parallel theme): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Psalms 57:2 (Parallel theme): I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

Psalms 29:11 (Peace): The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Ezekiel 20:14 (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

Hebrews 13:20 (Peace): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Jeremiah 33:6 (Peace): Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (References Lord): And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

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