

# Isaiah 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

## Analysis

**"With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."** This verse intensifies the longing expressed in verse 8, now in first-person singular. **"With my soul have I desired thee in the night"** (נַפְשִׁי אָוָתִיךְ בְּלִילָה) —nafshi ivvitikha balaylah)—nafshi (my soul) is the seat of desire and emotion. Ivvitikha (I have desired You) expresses intense longing and craving. Balaylah (in the night) refers to times of darkness, difficulty, and distress, when sleeplessness comes from either trouble or passionate desire for God. The psalmist echoes this: "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches" (Psalm 63:6).

**"Yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early"** (אַף־רוּחִי בְּקִרְבִּי אֲשַׁחֲרָה) —ruchi veqirbi ashacharekka)—ruchi (my spirit) emphasizes the inner person, the deepest part of human consciousness. Beqirbi (within me) emphasizes interiority. Ashacharekka (I will seek You early) comes from shachar, meaning dawn—to seek diligently at dawn, to pursue earnestly from first light. This describes intentional, disciplined, early-morning seeking of God, before the day's distractions intrude. The combination of soul (emotion/desire) and spirit (volition/inner being) emphasizes total-person longing for God.

**"For when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will**

**learn righteousness"** כִּי / כִּי קָאשָׁר מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לְאָרֶץ צְדָקָה לְמִדּוֹ יָשְׁבֵי תְּבֵל (ki / ki ka'asher mishpatekha la'aretz tzedeq lamedu yoshvei tevel)—this explains the passionate desire. Mishpatekha (Your judgments) are God's acts of governance and justice. When these are manifested la'aretz (in the earth), people lamedu tzedeq (learn righteousness). Lamad means to learn, be taught, trained. God's visible judgments become the curriculum teaching humanity righteousness.

## Historical Context

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This prayer reflects the experience of godly Israelites who longed for God while enduring national apostasy and judgment. During Isaiah's ministry, most of Judah pursued idolatry and injustice. The faithful remnant cried out for God's intervention. The verse anticipates the millennial kingdom when Christ's rule will enforce righteousness globally: "He shall judge among the nations...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4). Currently, God's judgments throughout history teach righteousness to those with eyes to see, but the full manifestation awaits Christ's return.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Do you seek God 'in the night' (during dark times) with the same intensity you desire Him 'early' (in good times)?
2. What does seeking God with both 'soul' (emotion) and 'spirit' (will) look like in practical morning devotion?
3. How do God's current judgments in the world teach righteousness to those willing to learn?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלֹבֶבِ	רוּחַ	אַפָּ	בְּלִילָה	אֹתָהּ	בְּנֶפֶשׁ	י
With my soul	have I desired	thee in the night			yea with my spirit	within
H5315	H183	H3915		H637	H7307	H7130
אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ	כִּאֵשׁ	רַכְבָּ	מִשְׁפָּטָ	יְבָ	לֹא־כֵן	
me will I seek thee early		H3588	H834	for when thy judgments	are in the earth	
				H4941		H776
צַדְקָה	לְמַד	וְאַ	שָׁבָ	וּבְלָ		
righteousness	will learn		the inhabitants	of the world		
H6664	H3425		H3427	H8398		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 6:33** (Righteousness): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Psalms 119:62** (Righteousness): At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

**Psalms 63:1** (Parallel theme): O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

**Mark 1:35** (Parallel theme): And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

**Revelation 11:13** (Parallel theme): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

**Isaiah 55:6** (Parallel theme): Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

**Psalms 58:11** (Righteousness): So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

**Proverbs 8:17** (Parallel theme): I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

**Luke 6:12** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

**Isaiah 27:9** (Parallel theme): By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalkstones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

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