

Isaiah 29:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

Analysis

For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep (כִּי נִסַּךְ עֲלֵיכֶם) ki nasakh aleykhem YHWH ruach tardemah)—the verb נִסַּךְ (nasakh) means to pour out (like a drink offering). God pours out (ruach tardemah), a spirit of deep sleep. The word תַּרְדֵּמָה (tardemah) appears when God put Adam into deep sleep (Genesis 2:21) and when Abraham experienced the deep sleep of covenant ratification (Genesis 15:12)—supernatural stupor, not natural drowsiness. **And hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered** (וַיַּעֲצֶם אֶת־עִינֵיכֶם אֶת־הַנּוּבִיאִים וְאֶת־הַאֲשִׁיכֶם הַחֹזִים כְּפָה) vaye'atsem et-eyneykhem et-hanevi'im ve'et-rasheykhem hachozim kisah).

The terrifying reality: God Himself judicially blinds those who persistently refuse to see. The prophets (נְבִיאִים, nevi'im) and seers (חוֹזִים, chozim)—those meant to provide spiritual vision—are covered, sealed shut. This is covenantal hardening, God's active judgment on chronic rebellion. Paul quotes this in Romans 11:8 regarding Israel's blindness to Christ. Persistent rejection of revelation results in God removing the ability to perceive it.

Historical Context

Throughout Judah's history, false prophets proliferated while true prophets were ignored or persecuted. Jeremiah later faced this: false prophets promised peace while he proclaimed judgment (Jeremiah 28). By Jesus's time, this judicial

hardening was fully evident—religious leaders examined Jesus's works yet concluded He operated by Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 – All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does persistent rejection of God's truth lead to judicial hardening where He removes the ability to perceive?
 2. What warning does this give about treating God's revelation casually or repeatedly ignoring His word?
 3. How can spiritual leaders themselves become blinded when they prioritize institutional preservation over obedience?

Interlinear Text

תְּרִדְמָה הַ רְאֵת עַלְיָקָם תְּסַרְעָתָה יְהֹוָה הַתְּבִשָּׁתָה הַתְּבִשָּׁתָה
H3588 **hath poured out** H5921 **For the LORD** upon you the spirit of deep sleep
H5258 H3068 H7307 H8639

רְאֵשֶׁיךָ מֵאַת פְּנִבְיאָה יִם אַת יְעַזָּה מֵאַת וְיַעֲזָה מֵאַת
and hath closed H853 **your eyes** H853 **the prophets** H853 **and your rulers** H7218
H6105 H5869 H5030 H7218

בְּחַזְׁ יִם כְּפָה: the seers hath he covered

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:8 (Spirit): (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Isaiah 44:18 (Parallel theme): They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Isaiah 30:10 (Prophecy): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

1 Samuel 9:9 (Prophecy): (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

Psalms 69:23 (Parallel theme): Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ezekiel 14:9 (Prophecy): And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

1 Samuel 26:12 (References Lord): So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

Micah 3:6 (Prophecy): Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.