

Isaiah 29:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

Analysis

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book (וְשָׁמְעוּ בַּיּוֹם־הַהוּא וְחֵרֶשִׁים, veshame'u vayom-hahu hachereshim divrey-sefer)—the חֵרֶשִׁים (chereshim, deaf) will שָׁמַע (shama, hear) the sealed book's דִּבְרֵי (divrey, words). **And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness** (וְיֵצְאוּ מִן־הַחֹשֶׁךְ וְיֵצְאוּ מִן־הַחֹשֶׁךְ, ume'ofel umechoshekh eyney ivrim tire'enah)—the עִוְרִים (ivrim, blind) will רָאָה (ra'ah, see) emerging from אֹפֶל (ofel, gloom) and חֹשֶׁךְ (choshekh, darkness).

Jesus explicitly identified His ministry with this prophecy. In Nazareth He read Isaiah 61:1-2 (Luke 4:18-21) and healed deaf-mutes and blind people as signs of the Kingdom's arrival (Matthew 11:5). But the healing transcends physical restoration—it's spiritual. The sealed book (v. 11) becomes readable; judicial blindness (v. 10) is reversed. This is new creation, regeneration, the Holy Spirit opening eyes to see and ears to hear (2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 1:18). What was impossible under law becomes reality through grace.

Historical Context

Jesus's healing miracles validated His Messianic identity precisely because Isaiah prophesied these as Kingdom-inauguration signs. When John the Baptist sent disciples asking, 'Are you the one?' Jesus responded by pointing to these fulfillments (Matthew 11:2-6). The early church continued experiencing this:

spiritually dead people came alive, understanding Scripture previously 'sealed' to them.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How have you personally experienced spiritual 'sight' and 'hearing'—revelation of previously obscure truth?
2. Why are physical healings in Jesus's ministry important signs of deeper spiritual realities?
3. Who in your life might be spiritually 'deaf' and 'blind,' needing prayer for divine illumination?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמַע וְ	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	הַחֵרֶשׁ יִשְׁמַע	דְּבָרֵי	סֵפֶר
hear	And in that day	H1931	shall the deaf	the words	of the book
H8085	H3117		H2795	H1697	H5612
וְיָצֵא מִלְּפָנֵי	וְיָצֵא מִלְּפָנֵי	עֵינֵי יְ	עֵינֵי יְ	עֵינֵי יְ	תִרְאֶינָה:
out of obscurity	and out of darkness	and the eyes	of the blind	shall see	
H652	H2822	H5869	H5787	H7200	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:5 (Parallel theme): Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Mark 7:37 (Parallel theme): And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Isaiah 32:3 (Parallel theme): And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

Psalms 119:18 (Word): Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Acts 26:18 (Darkness): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Proverbs 20:12 (Parallel theme): The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

Isaiah 29:24 (Parallel theme): They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

Luke 7:22 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.