

Isaiah 30:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:

Analysis

Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness (הָזָה/מָא'ס בַּדָּבָר/ma'as baddavar hazzeh)—The Hebrew verb ma'as means to reject with contempt, actively spurning God's prophetic word. Israel's sin was twofold: despising divine revelation while simultaneously trusting (בָּטַח/batach) in **oppression** (שָׁחַק/osheq)—extortion, exploitation of the weak—and **perverseness** (נָלוֹז/naloz)—crookedness, deviation from righteousness.

And stay thereon—they leaned their full weight (שָׁאֵן/sha'an) on political manipulation rather than God's promises. This indictment exposes the fundamental idolatry of trusting unjust systems while rejecting God's word, a pattern Jesus condemned in the Pharisees (Mark 7:13).

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesied during Judah's Assyrian crisis (701 BC), when King Hezekiah's officials sought Egyptian alliance instead of trusting God. The 'oppression and perverseness' likely refers to the political machinations and compromises required to secure Egypt's military support, including possible tribute payments and treaty obligations that violated covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What modern 'words of God' do you find yourself despising through inattention or selective hearing?
2. In what areas are you tempted to trust in human systems of power rather than God's promises?
3. How does political pragmatism today mirror Judah's trust in 'oppression and perverseness'?

Interlinear Text

כָּה לְךָ H3651	אָמַר H3541	וְשֵׁם קֹדֶשׁ H559	יְשׁוּעָה לְ H3282	וְלֹא H3478	וְעַתָּה H3282
Wherefore	thus saith	the Holy One	of Israel		
מֵאַסְפָּה H3988	בְּדָבָר H1697	וְתִבְטְחוּ H2088	בְּעַל שָׁקֶר H982	וּבְעַל H6233	וּבְעַל H3868
Because ye despise	this word	and trust	in oppression	and perverseness	
וְתִשָּׁעַן H8172	עָלָיו H5921				
and stay					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:24 (Holy): 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.

Isaiah 47:10 (Faith): For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (Holy): He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Amos 2:4 (Word): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

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