

Isaiah 30:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

Analysis

Though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction (תְּזַרְעַמְלָחָט/lechem tzar umayim lachatz)—Bread and water were prison rations (1 Kings 22:27), the bare minimum for survival. Tzar means distress, narrow straits; lachatz means oppression, pressure. God permits affliction as discipline, not abandonment—the exile is coming, but it serves redemptive purposes.

Yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more—The Hebrew moreka (מוֹרָקָה) is singular: "your Teacher," possibly referring to God himself as Israel's instructor, or to prophets/priests. They will no longer be hidden or silenced. **But thine eyes shall see thy teachers**—direct access to divine instruction returns. This anticipates the New Covenant promise: "they shall all know me" (Jeremiah 31:34) and the Spirit as teacher (John 14:26).

Historical Context

During the exile, Israel lost access to temple worship and normal religious instruction. False prophets had silenced true teachers (Isaiah 30:10-11). This promise assured that after judgment, true spiritual instruction would be restored. Historically, this came through Ezra's teaching ministry (Nehemiah 8), but ultimately through Christ, the Teacher, and the Spirit's illumination.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How has God used 'bread of adversity' to prepare you for clearer spiritual vision?
2. What false teachers have you allowed to be 'in the corner' while ignoring God's true instruction?
3. In what ways do you experience God as your direct Teacher through the Holy Spirit?

Interlinear Text

וְעַמְּדֵנִי לְכָם אֶתְנָתָן |
give H0 And though the Lord you the bread of adversity and the water
H5414 H136 H3899 H6862 H4325

לְמִצְרַיִם לְמִזְרָחָם מִזְרָחָם עַל מִזְרָחָם
of affliction H3808 be removed into a corner H3670 H5750 thy teachers H1961
H3906 H1961

מִזְרָחָם אֶת רָא וֹתְעֵד יְהִי
any more but thine eyes shall see H853 thy teachers
H5869 H7200 H3384

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 80:5 (Parallel theme): Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

1 Kings 22:27 (Parallel theme): And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.

Acts 14:22 (Parallel theme): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Psalms 127:2 (Parallel theme): It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalms 74:9 (Parallel theme): We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalms 102:9 (Parallel theme): For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping,

Deuteronomy 16:3 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.