

Isaiah 30:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

Analysis

That this is a rebellious people, lying children (כִּי עַם מָרִי הוּא בָנִים כֹּחָשִׁים/ki am meri hu banim kochasim)—God's verdict on Judah. Meri means rebellion, contumacy (from marah, to rebel). Kochasim means lying, deceitful, false. They're not just mistaken but dishonest—professing loyalty to God while trusting Egypt, claiming faith while practicing functional atheism.

Children that will not hear the law of the LORD (בָּנִים לֹא-אָבוּא שְׁמוֹעַ תּוֹרַת יְהוָה/banim lo-avu shmo'a torat Yahweh)—Lo-avu means "not willing, refuse"—volitional rejection, not inability. Shmo'a means hear/obey (Hebrew doesn't distinguish—hearing implies obeying). Torat Yahweh is Yahweh's instruction/law. They refuse to listen to God's word through prophets. This is covenant rebellion: sons who won't hear their Father's voice, students who reject their Teacher's instruction, subjects who defy their King's commands.

Historical Context

"Rebellious people" echoes Israel's history from wilderness wandering (Numbers 20:10—Moses called them "rebels") through judges period ("every man did what was right in his own eyes") to divided kingdom. Prophets repeatedly confronted this refusal to hear God's word (Jeremiah 6:10; Ezekiel 3:7). The specific rebellion here is rejecting Isaiah's prophetic counsel about Egyptian alliance. More broadly, it represents Israel's perennial pattern: hearing God's law, knowing His will, yet

choosing their own way. This rebellion would ultimately lead to Babylonian exile (586 BCE)—the ultimate consequence of refusing to hear the law of the LORD.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do people today act as 'lying children'—professing faith in God while trusting worldly securities?
2. What does it mean to 'not hear the law of the LORD'—to know God's word but refuse to obey it?
3. In what areas are you 'rebellious,' knowing God's will but choosing your own way?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	עַם	מְרִי	הוּא	בְּנֵי	כֹּחֵשׁ	בְּנֵי	לֹא
H3588	people	That this is a rebellious	H1931	children	lying	children	H3808
	H5971	H4805		H1121	H3586	H1121	
אֲבִי	שָׁמַע	תּוֹרַת	יְהוָה:				
that will	not hear	the law	of the LORD				
H14	H8085	H8451	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:1 (References Lord): Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Isaiah 1:4 (References Lord): Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Proverbs 28:9 (Word): He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Zephaniah 3:2 (References Lord): She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.