

Isaiah 32:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

Analysis

And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim (וְלֹא תִשְׁׁבַּיְנָה עֵינֵי רֹאִים) velo tish'eynah eyney ro'im)—the **עֵינִים** (eynayim, eyes) of **רֹאִים** (ro'im, those who see) won't be **שְׁעָה** (sha'ah, dim, blinded). **And the ears of them that hear shall hearken** (וְאַזְנֵי שְׁמַעִים תִּקְשְׁבָּה) ve'ozney shome'im tiqshavenah)—the **אַזְנִים** (oznayim, ears) of **שְׁמַעִים** (shome'im, those who hear) will **קִשְׁבַּ** (qashav, listen attentively, give heed).

This reverses the judicial blindness of Isaiah 29:9-10 where God poured out 'the spirit of deep sleep' and closed eyes. Under Messiah's reign, spiritual sight and hearing are restored. Those capable of seeing will see clearly; those able to hear will listen attentively. This isn't universal salvation (all seeing) but removal of judicial hardening for the elect. Jesus explained His parables both conceal truth from hard hearts and reveal it to those with ears to hear (Matthew 13:10-17, quoting Isaiah 6:9-10). The Spirit opens eyes and unstops ears (2 Corinthians 4:6, Acts 16:14).

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, prophets lamented spiritual blindness and deafness. By Jesus's day, this reached crisis—religious leaders examined Jesus yet concluded He was demon-possessed (John 8:48). But at Pentecost, eyes opened, ears unstopppped—3,000 believed Peter's sermon (Acts 2:41). The new covenant

promise: 'I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts' (Jeremiah 31:33)—internal transformation enabling spiritual perception.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual sight differ from physical sight or intellectual knowledge?
2. When did your own 'eyes' open to see Christ—what caused the shift from blindness to sight?
3. How can you pray for those whose eyes are currently 'dim' to spiritual realities?

Interlinear Text

אַל	תִּשְׁאַל	יְהֹוָה	רָא	עִמָּךְ	וְאֶזְרָךְ
H3808	H8159	H5869	H7200		H241
shall not be dim	And the eyes	of them that see	and the ears		
שְׁמַע	תִּשְׁ�ַרְתָּה:				
H8085	H7181				
of them that hear	shall hearken				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:18 (Parallel theme): 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.

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Parallel theme): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Isaiah 54:13 (Parallel theme): And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

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.