

Isaiah 42:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Analysis

God promises to lead the blind by unknown ways, make darkness light, and crooked things straight. The Hebrew 'ivver' (blind) represents those without spiritual sight whom God guides personally. The emphatic conclusion—"I will do them, and not forsake them"—guarantees completion. God finishes what He starts.

Historical Context

This assured exiles that despite not knowing the way home or future, God would guide them. Spiritually, it promises that God leads those who trust Him through unfamiliar territory with faithful presence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How are you experiencing God's guidance through currently dark or crooked circumstances?
2. What does God's promise not to forsake mean when you can't see the path ahead?

Interlinear Text

וְהוֹלַכְתָּ יָדָעוּ H1980	עֲוֵרִים H5787	בְּדֶרֶךְ H1870	לֹא H3808	יָדָעוּ H3045	בְּנִתִיב וְתֵיב H5410
	the blind	by a way		that they have not known	them in paths
לֹא H3808	יָדָעוּ H3045	אֲדִירִי H1869	אֲשִׁים H7760	מַחֲשֵׁךְ H4285	לִפְנֵיהֶם H6440
	that they have not known	not I will lead	I will make	darkness	before
לֹא H216	וּמַעֲקָשִׁים H4625	לְמִישׁ וְרָא H4334	אֵלֶּה H428	הַדְּבָרִים H1697	עֲשִׂיתִי H6213
	light	them and crooked things	straight	These things	will I do
וְלֹא H3808	עֲזֹבְתִים H5800				
	unto them and not forsake				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:21 (Parallel theme): And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Luke 3:5 (Parallel theme): Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

Isaiah 35:8 (Parallel theme): And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isaiah 40:4 (Parallel theme): Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

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.

Ephesians 5:8 (Light): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Hebrews 13:5 (Parallel theme): Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Isaiah 29:18 (Darkness): 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.

Psalms 94:14 (Parallel theme): For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Isaiah 45:2 (Parallel theme): I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: