

Isaiah 42:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?

Analysis

The shocking rhetorical question: 'Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger?' God's own servant and messenger are blind and deaf! This indicts Israel for failing their mission despite privileges. The Hebrew 'shamar' (perfect) ironically describes one who should see but doesn't.

Historical Context

Despite receiving the Law, prophets, and covenant promises, Israel remained spiritually blind and deaf, failing to recognize God's purposes or proclaim His message to nations—a tragic irony.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does privilege not guarantee spiritual sight—what keeps you blind despite advantages?
2. In what ways do you function as a deaf messenger, failing to hear or proclaim God's word?

Interlinear Text

מִי	וְעֵוֶר	כִּי	אִם	כְּעֵבֶד	וְחֵרֵשׁ	כְּמַלְאָכִי
H4310	Who is blind	H3588	H518	but my servant	or deaf	as my messenger
	H5787			H5650	H2795	H4397
אֲשֶׁלְּךָ	מִי	וְעֵוֶר	כְּמִשְׁלָם	וְעֵוֶר	כְּעֵבֶד	
that I sent	H4310	Who is blind	as he that is perfect	Who is blind	but my servant	
H7971		H5787	H7999	H5787	H5650	
יְהוָה:						
as the LORD'S						
H3068						

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Jeremiah 5:21 (Parallel theme): Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Ezekiel 12:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.