

Isaiah 42:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.

Analysis

The indictment continues: 'Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.' Physical capacity exists but functional awareness absent. The Hebrew 'ra'ah' (seeing) and 'shama' (hearing) happen, yet comprehension fails—a willful obtuseness more culpable than simple ignorance.

Historical Context

This describes Israel's persistent failure to understand God's ways despite continuous revelation through Law, prophets, and history. Exposure to truth without response produces greater guilt than ignorance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What biblical truths do you see and hear yet fail to observe and understand?
2. How does repeated exposure without response harden rather than soften the heart?

Interlinear Text

רָא יְתָרָא בְּרַבְתָּה וְלֹא תַשְׂמֵחַ רְאֵל

Seeing **many things**

H7200

H3808

but thou observest

H8104

פְּקַד וְמַ

not opening

H6491

אַזְנֵב יְמִ

the ears

H3808

וְשָׁמַעַן:

but he heareth

H8085

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