

# Isaiah 44:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

## Analysis

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Isaiah explains this blindness: 'They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.' This judicial blindness - God shutting eyes and hardening hearts - is both punishment for rebellion and explanation for persistent foolishness. The Hebrew 'tach' (to smear/plaster over) suggests eyes sealed shut.

## Historical Context

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This hardening echoes Isaiah 6:9-10 where Isaiah's ministry would harden hearers. Paul cites this regarding Israel's rejection of the gospel (Romans 11:8). Judicial blindness is both divine judgment and human responsibility.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does persistent rejection of truth lead to inability to perceive it?

2. What is the relationship between divine hardening and human responsibility for blindness?

## Interlinear Text

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ל א	יָדַע ו	וְל א	יָב ינו	כִּי	ט ח
H3808	They have not known	H3808	nor understood	H3588	for he hath shut
	H3045		H995		H2902
מְרֹאוֹת	עֵינֵיהֶם	יִמְשְׁכוּ יל	לְבָתָם:		
that they cannot see	their eyes	that they cannot understand	and their hearts		
H7200	H5869	H7919	H3826		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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:

**Psalms 81:12** (Parallel theme): So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

**John 5:44** (Parallel theme): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

**John 8:43** (Parallel theme): Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

**Isaiah 29:10** (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

**Romans 1:28** (Parallel theme): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

**Daniel 12:10** (Parallel theme): Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

**Proverbs 28:5** (Parallel theme): Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

**Isaiah 1:3** (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

**Isaiah 44:20** (Parallel theme): He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

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