

Isaiah 49:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Analysis

The imagery of God making the Servant's mouth 'like a sharp sword' and hiding Him 'in the shadow of his hand' depicts both authority and protection. The 'polished shaft' (arrow) kept in a quiver ready for deployment shows God's strategic timing. Christ's words pierced hearts (Hebrews 4:12) and will judge nations (Revelation 19:15), while His hidden years (age 12-30) were divine preparation.

Historical Context

Isaiah's own ministry (740-681 BC) involved sharp prophetic words and periods of hiddenness (8:16-18). But the language transcends any single prophet, pointing to Messiah whose words have unique authority and whose mission was temporally concealed until 'fullness of time' (Galatians 4:4).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God use 'hidden' seasons in your life to sharpen you for future deployment?
2. In what ways is Christ's word a 'sharp sword' that pierces your own heart?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּשִּׁימֵהוּ	פִּי	כֶּחָרֶב	חֶדֶה	בְּצֵל	יָדוֹ
And he hath made	my mouth	sword	like a sharp	in the shadow	of his hand
H7760	H6310	H2719	H2299	H6738	H3027
הֶחְבִּיֵּא הוּא	וַיַּשִּׁימֵהוּ	לְחָץ	בָּר וֹר	בְּאַשְׁפֹּתָיו	הֶחְבִּיֵּא הוּא
hath he hid	And he hath made	shaft	me a polished	in his quiver	hath he hid
H2244	H7760	H2671	H1305	H827	H5641

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:12 (Word): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Revelation 1:16 (Word): And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Isaiah 50:4 (Word): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Isaiah 51:16 (Word): And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Revelation 2:12 (Word): And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Jeremiah 1:18 (Creation): For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

Isaiah 11:4 (Parallel theme): But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Psalms 91:1 (Parallel theme): He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Hosea 6:5 (Word): Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

Revelation 19:15 (Word): And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.