

Isaiah 58:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

Analysis

God continues promising blessing for practical mercy: "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul." "Draw out thy soul" (taphek naphsho) means to pour out yourself, giving not merely surplus but from personal resources and with personal involvement. "Satisfy the afflicted soul" requires meeting genuine needs—the Hebrew anah (afflicted) describes those humbled by circumstances. Then come glorious promises: "then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday." This promises illumination in dark circumstances—God bringing clarity, hope, and vindication when circumstances appear hopeless. The contrast between "obscurity" and "noonday" emphasizes complete transformation from deepest darkness to brightest light. This echoes earlier promises (verse 8) but adds the element of God bringing light even in ongoing dark circumstances. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that those who live out their faith through mercy will experience God's sustaining presence even in trials. The darkness doesn't necessarily disappear, but God's light shines within it, transforming experience from despair to hope.

Historical Context

The post-exilic community faced difficult circumstances—foreign domination, economic hardship, and delayed restoration of former glory (Haggai 1:6, 2:3). Those who responded with generosity rather than hoarding, mercy rather than exploitation, experienced God's sustaining grace even in those diminished

circumstances. This principle continued throughout redemptive history. The early church, despite persecution and poverty, experienced joy and divine favor as they shared generously (Acts 2:44-47, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'draw out your soul' to help others rather than giving merely from surplus?
2. How can believers experience God's light even while remaining in dark circumstances?
3. In what ways does generous living toward others transform our own experience of hardship?

Interlinear Text

תָּשַׁבְּ יְעַד	נָצַר הָ	לְנָעַם	וְתָמֵד לְ
And if thou draw out	to the hungry	soul	soul
H6329	H7457	H5315	H6031
the afflicted	and satisfy		
		H7646	

כָּאַבְּרִים:	תִּאְפְּלִתָּךְ	אָוֹךְ בָּךְ	בְּחַשְׁךְ שָׁךְ	רֵא
be as the noonday	and thy darkness	then shall thy light	in obscurity	rise
H6672	H653	H216	H2822	H2224

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:16 (Light): 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.

Job 11:17 (Parallel theme): And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

Psalms 37:6 (Light): And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Luke 18:22 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org