

# Isaiah 59:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

## Analysis

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The chapter opens with a bold declaration: 'Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.' The Hebrew 'qatsar' (shortened) indicates incapacity. God's power and attentiveness are not the problem - His arm reaches and His ear hears. The barrier to deliverance lies elsewhere.

## Historical Context

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This addresses exiles questioning God's ability or willingness to save. Similar complaints appear in Isaiah 40:27 and 50:2. Isaiah corrects the false assumption that God has become weak or inattentive.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. When have you blamed God's inability rather than examining other barriers to blessing?
2. How does this verse correct wrong assumptions about God's power and attentiveness?

## Interlinear Text

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Behold      הִנֵּה      לֹא      קָצַב      הַ      יָד      הַיְהִי      הַ      מְרוֹשׁ      יְעַד      לֹא  
H3808      H2005      H7114      H3027      H3068      H3467      H3808  
heavy      neither his ear      that it cannot hear  
H3513      H241      H8085

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 32:17** (References Lord): Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

**Isaiah 50:2** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

**Numbers 11:23** (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

**Isaiah 65:24** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**Genesis 18:14** (References Lord): Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

**Hebrews 7:25** (Salvation): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**Matthew 13:15** (Parallel theme): For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

**Isaiah 58:9** (References Lord): Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

**Isaiah 6:10** (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

**Isaiah 63:1** (Salvation): Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.