

Isaiah 59:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Analysis

The real barrier: 'But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.' Sin creates separation - the Hebrew 'badal' (separated) describes division, partition. Sin causes God to hide His face (withdraw favor) and refuse to hear. The problem is not God's arm but Israel's sin.

Historical Context

This is perhaps the clearest Old Testament statement of sin's separating effect. It explains exile not as divine weakness but as divine judgment on persistent covenant violation.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What sins might be creating separation between you and God?
2. How does understanding sin as relational barrier change your view of confession and repentance?

Interlinear Text

לֹבֶן לֹבֶן מְבָדֵל יְמִין קַיִן שׁוֹבְטִיכֶם אֶת־כָּא
H3588 H518 But your iniquities H1961 have separated H914 between H996 between
H5771 H2403 H5641 H6440 H4480

מִצְחָזָעָנִים פָּנֶים הַסְתֵּת יְרוּחָם וְמִפְּאַוְתִּיכָּם אֱלֹהִיכָּם
you and your God and your sins have hid his face H8085

מִשְׁתַּחֲזָעָנִים: from you that he will not hear

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 5:25 (Sin): Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

Proverbs 15:29 (Parallel theme): The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Micah 3:4 (Parallel theme): Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Isaiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 57:17 (Sin): For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

Ezekiel 39:29 (References God): Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Joshua 7:11 (Sin): Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed

thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Isaiah 58:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

Isaiah 50:1 (Sin): Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

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