

Isaiah 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Analysis

God's commission is shocking: proclaim a message that will result in people hearing but not understanding, seeing but not perceiving. This judicial hardening represents God's judgment on persistent rejection—He confirms people in their chosen path. Jesus quotes this passage explaining why He taught in parables (Matthew 13:14-15), and Paul applies it to Jewish rejection of the gospel (Acts 28:26-27). God's Word either softens or hardens hearts.

Historical Context

Isaiah's ministry would largely meet rejection, yet he faithfully proclaimed God's message for 60+ years. The hardening wasn't arbitrary but judicial response to persistent rebellion against revealed truth.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge prosperity gospel expectations of universal positive response to truth?
2. What responsibility do you bear to proclaim truth even when you know many will reject it?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶל	שְׁמָעֵ	שְׁמָעֵ	וְאֶל	וְאֶל	וְאֶל	וְאֶל
And he said	And he said	this people	Hear	Hear		
H559	H559	H5971	H2088	H8085	H408	H408

תִּדְעָה	וְאֶל	רָא	וְאֶל	רָא	וְאֶל	תִּדְעָה
but understand	not and see	not and see	H408	but perceive		
H995	H7200	H7200		H3045		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:10 (Parallel theme): And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Mark 4:12 (Parallel theme): That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

John 12:40 (Parallel theme): He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Isaiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Romans 11:8 (Parallel theme): (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Isaiah 43:8 (Parallel theme): Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

Hosea 1:9 (Parallel theme): Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

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