

Jeremiah 32:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

Analysis

God promises internal transformation: 'I will give them one heart, and one way.' The divided, double-minded heart that served both God and idols will be replaced with a unified heart devoted solely to God. 'One way' means a consistent path of obedience rather than vacillating between faithfulness and rebellion. This is God's work—'I will give'—not human achievement. The purpose: 'that they may fear me for ever,' maintaining perpetual reverence and obedience.

This promise connects directly to the new covenant (31:33): God will write His law on hearts, transforming desire and enabling obedience. The problem with the old covenant was not God's law but human hearts—rebellious, hard, incapable of sustained obedience. The solution is heart transplant: removing the heart of stone and giving a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). This is regeneration, the new birth Jesus described to Nicodemus (John 3:3-8).

The phrase 'for their good, and of their children after them' shows that God's purpose in giving a new heart is the people's welfare. God's commands are not arbitrary restrictions but pathways to human flourishing. When our hearts are aligned with God's will, we experience the good life He designed for us. This benefits not only the current generation but their children—godly parents tend to raise godly children, though individual faith remains necessary (John 1:12-13).

Historical Context

Israel's history demonstrated the need for heart transformation. Despite witnessing God's mighty acts (Exodus, Sinai, conquest of Canaan), they repeatedly turned to idols. Cycles of apostasy, judgment, repentance, and deliverance characterized the judges period. Even after the exile cured them of idolatry, they fell into legalism and self-righteousness (as Jesus confronted in the Pharisees). Only God's Spirit transforming hearts could produce lasting faithfulness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between trying to obey God with an unchanged heart versus having a transformed heart that desires to obey?
2. How does God give us 'one heart' that is unified in devotion rather than divided in loyalties?
3. What does it mean that God's commands are for our good—how does this change our attitude toward obedience?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:32 (Parallel theme): And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

John 17:21 (Parallel theme): That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Ezekiel 37:25 (Parallel theme): And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Hebrews 10:20 (Parallel theme): By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Proverbs 23:17 (Parallel theme): Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Jeremiah 32:40 (Good): And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2 Chronicles 30:12 (Parallel theme): Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.

Isaiah 35:8 (Parallel theme): And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

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