

Jeremiah 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

Analysis

This verse delivers God's verdict on why covenant blessings have been withheld: 'Your iniquities have turned away these things' ('ăwōnōtēkem hiṭṭū-ēlleh, עֲוֹנֹתִיכֶם הִתְּטַעַּבְתֶּלֶה). The verb nāṭā (turned away, diverted) indicates that sin actively prevents divine blessing. 'And your sins have withholden good things from you' uses māna' (withheld, kept back)—God's good gifts are available but blocked by unrepentant sin. This establishes a crucial theological principle: covenant disobedience interrupts the flow of divine blessing. The 'good things' (haṭṭōb) includes both material prosperity and spiritual blessing. This isn't prosperity gospel—God doesn't promise wealth for obedience—but covenant theology where persistent rebellion brings covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28). The principle applies spiritually: unrepentant sin hinders prayer (Psalm 66:18), grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and breaks fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Historical Context

Jeremiah ministered during a period when Judah experienced military threats, economic instability, and social upheaval—consequences of decades of covenant unfaithfulness under evil kings like Manasseh. Despite Josiah's reforms, the nation had accumulated guilt that demanded judgment. The 'good things' withheld likely included agricultural abundance, military security, and political stability—all promised in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 for covenant obedience but replaced by curses for disobedience (28:15-68). Within two decades of this prophecy, Babylon besieged Jerusalem, confirming that Judah's sins had indeed turned away covenant

blessings. The principle transcends Israel—James 4:3 warns that selfish motives hinder answered prayer, showing that sin continues to block divine blessing in believers' lives.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What blessings might God be withholding from you due to unrepentant sin or disobedience in your life?
2. How does understanding that sin 'turns away' God's good things motivate genuine repentance beyond mere fear of punishment?

Interlinear Text

עֲוֹנוֹתִיךְ	הַטָּו	אֶלָּה	אַחֲתָךְ	מִ
Your iniquities	have turned away		these things and your sins	
H5771	H5186	H428	H2403	

מִנְעָן	בְּטָבּוּן	מִקְמָן
have withheld	good	H4480

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 59:2 (Sin): But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Psalms 107:34 (Parallel theme): A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

Psalms 107:17 (Sin): Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

Jeremiah 3:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Lamentations 3:39 (Sin): Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Lamentations 4:22 (Sin): The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.

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