

Psalms 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

Analysis

The description of the wicked: 'In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes' depicts systematic corruption. 'Mischief' (zimmah) suggests premeditated evil; 'bribes' indicates perverted justice. The wicked's very hands—instruments of action—are tools of wickedness. Reformed theology emphasizes total depravity: sin affects all human faculties, including the 'hands' that should do good. This contrasts with verse 6's 'innocent hands,' showing the moral gulf between righteous and wicked.

Historical Context

Corruption of justice through bribes plagued Israel repeatedly (Isa. 1:23, Micah 3:11). Prophets condemned leaders whose 'hands' took bribes rather than defending the poor. This verse condemns systemic injustice.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'mischief' and 'bribes' characterize modern systemic injustice?

2. How do your 'hands' serve righteousness rather than corruption?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	בְּיָדָיָהּ	זָמָה	וְיָמִינָהּ	מִלְאָהּ	שֹׁחַד:
H834	In whose hands	is mischief	and their right hand	is full	of bribes
	H3027	H2154	H3225	H4390	H7810

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 16:19 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Psalms 52:2 (Parallel theme): Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

Exodus 23:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

1 Samuel 8:3 (Parallel theme): And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.