

# Psalm 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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

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

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁפֵד: מֵלְאָה מֵלְאָה  
is full of bribes  
אֲשֶׁר בַּידֵיכֶם זָפַת הַיְדִיכֶם  
and their right hand is mischief  
H834 In whose hands H3027 H2154 H3225 H4390 H7810

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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