

Isaiah 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Analysis

The promise to restore judges and counselors 'as at the first' looks back to the golden age of righteous leadership under figures like Moses, Joshua, and David, while ultimately pointing forward to Messiah's kingdom where perfect justice reigns (Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-5). The resulting title 'the city of righteousness, the faithful city' reverses verse 21's lament, demonstrating God's redemptive purpose. This eschatological restoration finds ultimate fulfillment in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2), where God dwells with His purified people.

Historical Context

Israel's early period featured judges raised up by God (Judges 2:16) and David's righteous reign. Isaiah envisions a return to such godly leadership, fulfilled in Christ and His kingdom.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does longing for the 'city of righteousness' shape our political engagement and social ethics?
2. In what ways does Christ's present reign inaugurate this promised restoration, even as we await its consummation?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ יְבָה	כִּבְרָא אֲשֶׁר הָיָה	שִׁפְטֵת יְהוָה	וַיַּעֲצֵה יְהוָה
And I will restore	thy judges	as at the first	and thy counsellors
H7725	H8199	H7223	H3289
כְּבָתְחַלְתָּה	אַחֲרֵי	כִּי אַתָּה רָא	לְרֹא יְהוָה
as at the beginning	afterward	H3651	thou shalt be called
H8462	H310	H7121	H0
תָּמִימָה:	מְלֵא לֵךְ		The city
of righteousness	city	the faithful	H5892
H6664	H7151	H539	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 33:7 (Parallel theme): And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

Zechariah 8:3 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.