

Isaiah 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Analysis

Zion's redemption through 'judgment' (Hebrew 'mishpat') and 'righteousness' reveals God's method: judicial purification followed by ethical restoration. The term 'converts' (Hebrew 'shab'—those who return/repent) identifies the remnant who respond to God's refining work. Redemption isn't universal restoration but selective deliverance of the repentant, aligning with Reformed doctrine of particular redemption. This pattern anticipates Christ's atoning work that both satisfies divine justice and effects moral transformation (Romans 3:24-26).

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile would later serve as this refining judgment, with a faithful remnant returning under Ezra and Nehemiah. Typologically, it points to Christ's redemptive work establishing a new covenant community.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the inseparability of judgment and righteousness in redemption inform our understanding of salvation?
2. What does it mean to be among those who 'return' or 'convert' within God's covenant people?

Interlinear Text

צִיּוֹן	בְּמִשְׁפָּט	תִּפְדָּהּ	וְשָׁבָה	בְּצִדְקָהּ
Zion	with judgment	shall be redeemed	and her converts	with righteousness
H6726	H4941	H6299	H7725	H6666

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:16 (Righteousness): But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

Isaiah 63:4 (Redemption): For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

Isaiah 62:12 (Redemption): And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.