

Isaiah 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and
faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Analysis

Righteousness and faithfulness are Messiah's clothing—His essential characteristics, not merely external qualities. The belt/girdle held garments together for work and battle, suggesting these virtues equip Christ for His mission. 'Righteousness' (perfect conformity to God's law) and 'faithfulness' (unwavering commitment to God's purposes) define His character completely. Unlike human leaders whose integrity wavers, Christ's righteousness and faithfulness never fail. This describes the Messiah's perfect qualification to save and judge.

Historical Context

Jesus perfectly embodied righteousness and faithfulness throughout earthly ministry—tempted yet sinless (Hebrews 4:15), perfectly obedient to the Father (John 8:29), faithful unto death (Philippians 2:8). His righteousness qualifies Him to be our substitute; His faithfulness ensures He completes salvation. This perfect character made Him the worthy Lamb (Revelation 5:9) and qualified High Priest (Hebrews 7:26).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's perfect righteousness provide the basis for our justification?
2. What does Christ's faithfulness guarantee about the completion of our salvation?
3. How should we as believers put on righteousness and faithfulness in imitation of Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	צְדָקָה	אֲזוּר	מִתְנַּיִם	וְהָאֱמוּנָה
H1961	And righteousness	shall be the girdle	of his loins	and faithfulness
	H6664	H232	H4975	H530
אֲזוּר	חֲלָצִיָּה			
shall be the girdle	of his reins			
H232	H2504			

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:14 (Righteousness): Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

1 John 1:9 (Faith): If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Isaiah 59:17 (Righteousness): For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Isaiah 25:1 (Faith): O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

2 Corinthians 6:7 (Righteousness): By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

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