

Isaiah 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

Analysis

This verse transitions from Babylon's judgment (chapter 13) to Israel's restoration. 'The LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve'—a three-fold deliverance: from sorrow (emotional anguish), fear (terror of oppression), and hard bondage (literal slavery). This echoes Exodus language, positioning Babylonian exile and return as a new exodus. God doesn't just judge the oppressor; He restores the oppressed. The rest promised is comprehensive: emotional, psychological, and physical freedom. This finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ, who gives rest to the weary and heavy laden (Matthew 11:28).

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesies Israel's Babylonian exile and return before it happens. The exile came in 586 BC; the return under Cyrus's decree in 538 BC. Seventy years of captivity in Babylon were indeed marked by sorrow, fear, and bondage. Yet the return from exile was only partial restoration—many didn't return, the temple was smaller, no Davidic king ruled. Full rest awaited the Messiah. For Christians, this points to Christ's work freeing us from sin's bondage, fear's tyranny, and sorrow's grip. Ultimate rest comes in the new heavens and earth.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. In what ways does Christ provide rest from sorrow, fear, and bondage for believers today?
2. How do historical deliverances (like return from exile) point forward to ultimate deliverance in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַיּוֹם	בִּי וְאִם	הַיּוֹם יִתֵּן	יְהוָה	לִבְּךָ
H1961				H0
And it shall come to pass in the day shall give thee rest that the LORD				
	H3117	H5117	H3068	
מִמְּעַצְבְּךָ	וּמִמִּדְּיָךְ	וּמִן	הַעֲבֹדָה	הַקָּשָׁה
		H4480		H834
from thy sorrow	and from thy fear	bondage	and from the hard	
H6090	H7267	H5656	H7186	
	שָׁמָּה	בְּרָחֶיךָ		
		H0		
wherein thou wast made to serve				
H5647				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:10 (References Lord): Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Isaiah 32:18 (Parallel theme): And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Zechariah 8:8 (Parallel theme): And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

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