

Isaiah 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth.

Analysis

Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified (ישָׁפַט לְגוּיִים יְהוָה יָשַׁפֵּט לְגָויִים נִכְבָּד) —The verb יָסַף (yasaf, "to add, increase") appears twice for emphasis. After judgment purges the wicked (v. 14), God enlarges His people. The passive נִכְבָּד (nikhbad, "you are glorified") shows that national restoration brings glory to God, not the nation. This anticipates the ingathering of Gentiles into God's people (Isaiah 2:2-4, 49:6, 56:6-8).

Thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth (רָשַׁקְתָּ כָּל-קָצֵן-אָרֶץ) —The verb רָשַׁק (rachaq, "to be far, removed") refers to exile and diaspora. God scattered Israel to earth's ends in judgment, yet this same dispersion becomes the means of worldwide witness and eventual regathering. The paradox: divine judgment becomes the instrument of global redemption.

Historical Context

This prophecy looked beyond the Assyrian threat to Babylonian exile (586 BC) and the wider Jewish diaspora. After 70 AD, Jewish dispersion became global. Yet Isaiah envisions this scattering reversed—God increasing the nation and gathering exiles. The New Testament sees fulfillment in the church: Jews and Gentiles united in Messiah, God's people multiplied to earth's ends. Paul cites Isaiah extensively in

Romans 9-11 to explain how Israel's temporary hardening facilitates Gentile inclusion, leading to Israel's eventual restoration.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God use even scattering and exile to accomplish His purposes of glorifying Himself and expanding His people?
2. In what ways has God 'increased the nation' through the church, incorporating Gentiles into Abraham's spiritual family?
3. How should knowing that God's glory is the ultimate purpose of national/church growth shape our evangelism and mission?

Interlinear Text

לָגַת	לָגַת	לָגַת	לָגַת	לָגַת
Thou hast increased	the nation	O LORD	Thou hast increased	the nation
H3254	H1471	H3068	H3254	H1471

כָּל	כָּל	כָּל	כָּל	כָּל
thou art glorified	thou hadst removed it far	H3605	unto all the ends	of the earth
H3513	H7368		H7099	H776

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:3 (Parallel theme): Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

Isaiah 60:21 (Glory): Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

Isaiah 33:17 (Parallel theme): Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

Isaiah 44:23 (Glory): Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

Jeremiah 32:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Jeremiah 30:19 (Parallel theme): And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

Nehemiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.

John 17:1 (Parallel theme): These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 15:8 (Glory): Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Genesis 12:2 (Parallel theme): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

