

Isaiah 32:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

Analysis

Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness (וְשָׁׁׁכַּן בְּמִדְבָּר מִשְׁפָּט), veshakhan bamidbar mishpat)—מִשְׁפָּט (mishpat, judgment, justice) will שָׁׁכַּן (shakhan, dwell, abide) even in מִדְבָּר (midbar, wilderness). **And righteousness remain in the fruitful field** (אַצְּדָקָה בְּכַרְמֵל תֵּשֶׁב) —אַצְּדָקָה (utsedaqah, righteousness) will יֵשֶׁב (yashav, settle, remain) in the כַּרְמֵל (karmel, fruitful field).

Spirit-transformation produces justice and righteousness—not as forced external compliance but as internal character. The verbs שָׁׁכַּן (shakhan, dwell) and יֵשֶׁב (yashav, settle) indicate permanence, not fleeting visitation. Justice dwells even in wilderness (marginal spaces); righteousness settles in fruitful fields (productive spaces). The Kingdom brings moral transformation to every sphere. Romans 14:17 defines Kingdom: 'righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.' Galatians 5:22-23 lists Spirit-fruit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering—ethical transformation flowing from Spirit-presence.

Historical Context

Old covenant Israel struggled with justice and righteousness—prophets constantly condemned corruption (Isaiah 1:21-23, Amos 5:7-12, Micah 6:8). Law commanded righteousness but couldn't produce it in hearts. New covenant promise: 'I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts' (Jeremiah 31:33). Early church demonstrated this transformation—sharing possessions, caring for widows, transcending ethnic barriers (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35, Galatians 3:28).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Spirit-indwelling produce justice and righteousness from the inside out rather than external rule-keeping?
2. What 'wilderness' areas (difficult circumstances, challenging relationships) need God's mishpat (justice) to dwell there?
3. How can you cultivate Spirit-produced righteousness rather than self-manufactured moralism?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָרֶת לְ
וְשָׁבֵן וְשָׁבֵן
shall dwell in the wilderness Then judgment and righteousness in the fruitful field
H7931 H4057 H4941 H6666 H3759

וְשָׁבֵן

remain

H3427

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