

Isaiah 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

Analysis

Those 'left in Zion' and 'remaining in Jerusalem' are designated 'holy'—set apart by divine election and purification, not inherent merit. The phrase 'written among the living' anticipates the book of life concept (Exodus 32:32; Revelation 20:12), signifying divine determination of salvation. This selective preservation reflects Reformed doctrine of particular redemption: God sovereignly preserves a remnant for Himself, purified through judgment's refining fire.

Historical Context

Exile served to purify Israel, removing syncretistic elements and leaving a faithful remnant. Post-exilic community, though small, demonstrated renewed covenant commitment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the concept of being 'written among the living' provide assurance of sovereign election?
2. What does it mean to be 'left' and 'remaining'—persevering saints versus those who fall away?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	הַנִּשְׁאַר	בְּצִיּוֹן	וְהַנּוֹתָר		
H1961	And it shall come to pass that he that is left	in Zion	and he that remaineth		
	H7604	H6726	H3498		
בִּירוּשָׁלַם:	קֹדֶשׁ	יֵאָמֵר	לֹא יִכָּל	הַכֶּתֶּב וְ	
in Jerusalem	holy	shall be called	H0	H3605	even every one that is written
H3389	H6918	H559			H3789
לְחַיִּים	בִּירוּשָׁלַם:				
among the living	in Jerusalem				
H2416	H3389				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:20 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Isaiah 60:21 (Parallel theme): 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 52:1 (Holy): Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

Psalms 69:28 (Parallel theme): Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

Revelation 3:5 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 17:8 (Parallel theme): The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 20:15 (Parallel theme): And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 13:8 (Parallel theme): And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 12:14 (Holy): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: