

Isaiah 42:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

Analysis

Despite Israel's failure, 'the LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake'—His own righteousness, not theirs. He will 'magnify the law, and make it honourable' through His purposes. The Hebrew 'gadal' (magnify) suggests exalting and displaying the law's perfection, ultimately through Christ who fulfills it.

Historical Context

God's commitment to magnify His law meant that despite Israel's failure, He would uphold its requirements through Messiah's perfect obedience and substitutionary death, demonstrating both justice and mercy.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to His own righteousness ensure salvation despite your failures?
2. What does it mean that Christ magnified the law by perfectly keeping and fulfilling it?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי הָלֶל	בְּפָנָיו	לְמַעַן	צָדָקָה	לְמַעַן
The LORD	is well pleased	H4616	for his righteousness	sake he will magnify
H3068	H2654		H6664	H1431

תָּזַבֵּחַ	יִאָדֵר:
the law	and make it honourable
H8451	H142

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:31 (Word): Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Hebrews 8:10 (Word): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Isaiah 42:4 (Word): He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Psalms 71:19 (Righteousness): Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

Psalms 40:8 (Word): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Romans 7:12 (Righteousness): Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Matthew 3:15 (Righteousness): And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Psalms 71:16 (Righteousness): I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

Romans 10:4 (Righteousness): For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Matthew 17:5 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

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