

Isaiah 54:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Analysis

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. This verse shifts from physical beauty (vv. 11-12) to spiritual blessing—education and peace. "All thy children taught of the LORD" (kol-banayikh limude YHWH, כָּל-בְּנֵיךָ לְמוּדֵי יְהוָה) emphasizes universal, direct divine instruction. Not some elite but all covenant children receive God's teaching. The passive participle "taught" (limud, לָמַד) indicates they are God's disciples, students of divine wisdom.

The result: "great peace" (shalom rav, שְׁלוֹם רַב). Shalom encompasses wholeness, prosperity, security, well-being—comprehensive flourishing. The connection between divine instruction and peace suggests that knowing God produces tranquility; ignorance breeds anxiety. Jesus quotes this verse in John 6:45: "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God." This establishes that those who come to Christ are fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy.

From a Reformed perspective, this describes effectual calling and illumination by the Holy Spirit. External teaching is insufficient; God must internally teach for salvific knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:12-14, 1 John 2:27). The new covenant promise that "they shall all know me, from the least to the greatest" (Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:11) fulfills this. The peace comes from justification and reconciliation with God (Romans 5:1), not merely cessation of conflict but positive well-being rooted in divine favor.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's education system centered on fathers teaching children Torah (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Professional scribes and priests provided advanced instruction. Yet Isaiah promises universal, direct divine teaching—a democratization of spiritual knowledge that the Old Testament prophets anticipated and the New Testament fulfills.

Jesus' quotation of this verse (John 6:45) applies it to those who come to Him in faith. The early church's experience at Pentecost, when the Spirit enabled understanding (Acts 2:4, 11), demonstrated this teaching. Church history shows tension between clerical mediation and direct access—the Reformation's recovery of sola scriptura and priesthood of all believers affirmed that all God's children can and should be taught directly by Him through Scripture and the Spirit, not dependent on ecclesiastical intermediaries.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced being 'taught of the LORD' beyond mere human instruction?
2. What connection do you see in your life between knowing God and experiencing peace?
3. How can the church better facilitate members being directly taught by God through His Word and Spirit?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	בְּנֵי־יְ	לִמּוֹד י	יְהוָה	וְגָדֹל
H3605	And all thy children	shall be taught	of the LORD	and great
	H1121	H3928	H3068	H7227
וְשָׁלֵם	בְּנֵי־יְ			
shall be the peace	And all thy children			
H7965	H1121			

Additional Cross-References

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Psalms 119:165 (Peace): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Philippians 4:7 (Peace): And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:34 (References Lord): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 8:10 (References Lord): 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:

Romans 5:1 (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Galatians 5:22 (Peace): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Isaiah 26:3 (Peace): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Romans 14:17 (Peace): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

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