

Isaiah 54:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

Analysis

In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. This verse promises secure establishment based on righteousness (tsedaqah, צְדָקָה). "Established" (tikonani, תִּכְונַן) suggests firm foundation, stability, permanence. The righteousness that establishes is not Israel's moral achievement but God's saving righteousness (Isaiah 45:24-25, 51:5-6), the same term used for justification.

Four related promises follow:

1. "far from oppression" (rachaq me'oshek, רָחַק מֵעֹשֶׁךָ)—distance from injustice
2. "thou shalt not fear"—freedom from anxiety
3. "far from terror" (mechchittah, מַכְחִיתָה, sudden calamity)
4. "it shall not come near thee"—complete protection.

These move from external threats (oppression, terror) to internal response (no fear), demonstrating how security affects both circumstances and psychology.

From a Reformed perspective, this describes justification's effects. Established in Christ's righteousness, believers stand secure (Romans 5:1-2). Oppression and terror cannot ultimately harm those hidden in Christ (Romans 8:31-39). The promise doesn't eliminate all trials but guarantees that nothing can separate from God's love or derail His purposes. This verse grounds Christian courage in imputed

righteousness—we stand firm not through inherent goodness but through Christ's perfect righteousness credited to us.

Historical Context

Israel's history involved repeated oppression: Egypt, Canaanites, Philistines, Assyria, Babylon. The exile represented ultimate terror—loss of land, temple, identity. Isaiah promises future security rooted in righteousness, initially fulfilled in post-exilic period when Persia protected returning Jews, allowing temple and wall reconstruction.

Yet ultimate fulfillment awaits Messiah's kingdom. Church history shows believers facing persecution, yet experiencing inner peace and courage (martyrs singing in arenas, Reformers steadfast before inquisitions). The promise isn't freedom from all suffering but establishment in righteousness that no oppression can overthrow. The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27) admits only those established in righteousness, where oppression and terror are permanently banished.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does being established in Christ's righteousness (not your own) affect your daily confidence?
2. What oppression or terror do you fear that this promise addresses?
3. How can you better appropriate this promised freedom from fear in practical situations?

Interlinear Text

בְּצִדְקָה	תִּפְנַת	נִי	בְּתִקְעָה	תִּפְנַת	נִי	מִעַן	שְׁקָדָם	כִּי
In righteousness	shalt thou be established		thou shalt be far	from oppression				H3588
H6666	H3559		H7368				H6233	
לֹא	תִּירְאֶה	אֵין	לֹא	כִּי	וְמִמְחַטָּה	ה	תִּרְאֶה	בְּ
H3808	for thou shalt not fear		H3588	H3808	and from terror		for it shall not come near	H7126
	H3372		H4288					
אַלְיָהָה								
H413								

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Zechariah 9:8 (Parallel theme): And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes.

Isaiah 9:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

Zechariah 8:3 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Isaiah 1:26 (Righteousness): And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

2 Peter 3:13 (Righteousness): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Isaiah 60:21 (Righteousness): 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 2:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 45:24 (Righteousness): Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

Isaiah 51:13 (Parallel theme): And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

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