

Isaiah 57:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;

Analysis

The verse divides sharply between judgment and promise. First, the threat: "When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee." The Hebrew qibbutz (collection/companies) likely refers to their assembled idols or allied nations—let these supposed helpers save them in their distress. This echoes Jeremiah's taunt, "Where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee" (Jeremiah 2:28). "The wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them" uses parallel terms—ruach (wind/spirit) and hebel (vanity/breath)—emphasizing the utter insubstantiality of false securities. Then comes the glorious contrast: "But he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain." This promise of inheritance connects to the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 15:7) and ultimate rest in Zion. Reformed theology sees this as distinguishing true faith from false profession—the elect remnant who trust Yahweh alone will receive the inheritance. "Putting trust" (chasah) means seeking refuge, the language of faith used in the Psalms (Psalm 2:12, 16:1, 57:1).

Historical Context

This prophecy was fulfilled historically when Judah's allies and idols proved useless during Babylon's invasion. Those who trusted in Egypt, Assyria, or pagan gods found no help (Jeremiah 37:7-10). However, a remnant who trusted Yahweh alone,

like Daniel, Ezekiel, and others, eventually returned from exile to possess the land again (Ezra, Nehemiah). Ultimately, this points to the new covenant people who inherit God's kingdom through faith in Christ (Matthew 5:5, Romans 4:13, Galatians 3:29).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What false refuges do we run to in times of crisis instead of trusting God alone?
2. How does genuine trust in God differ from mere religious profession?
3. What inheritance has Christ secured for those who put their trust in Him?

Interlinear Text

בְּזַעֲקֶךָ	יִצִּילֲךָ	קְבוּצַּי יְיָ	וְאֵת	כָּל מֵ
When thou criest	deliver	let thy companies	H853	H3605
H2199	H5337	H6899		
יִשָּׂא	רַח וְ	יִקַּח	הַ כָּל	
shall carry them all away	thee but the wind	shall take	vanity	
H5375	H7307	H3947	H1892	
וְהַחוּס הַ	בִּי	יִנְחַל	אֶרֶץ	
them but he that putteth his trust	H0	in me shall possess	the land	
H2620		H5157	H776	
וְיִירַשׁ	הָרַ	קִדְשִׁי:		
and shall inherit	mountain	my holy		
H3423	H2022	H6944		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:9 (Parallel theme): For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:3 (Faith): Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Isaiah 65:25 (Holy): The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 56:7 (Holy): Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Isaiah 11:9 (Holy): They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 65:9 (Parallel theme): And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.

Isaiah 66:20 (Holy): And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

Psalms 125:1 (Faith): They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

Zechariah 7:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

Joel 3:17 (Holy): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

