

Isaiah 58:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Analysis

The chapter concludes with promises for Sabbath observance: "Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD." The Hebrew *hitanag* (delight) describes exquisite pleasure and satisfaction—finding ultimate joy in God Himself rather than in created things. "And I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth" uses military imagery of victory and dominion (Deuteronomy 32:13, 33:29). "And feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father" promises covenant blessings—the inheritance given to the patriarchs. The chapter ends with divine authority: "for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." This phrase (*pi Adonai diber*) seals the promise with absolute certainty. God's spoken word ensures fulfillment. These blessings flow from turning from Sabbath-breaking and finding delight in God's appointed means of grace. The Sabbath represents trusting God's provision rather than endless striving, and dedicating time specifically for worship rather than perpetual commerce. From a Reformed perspective, Christ fulfills the Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9-10), but the principle remains: those who truly delight in God, prioritizing worship and dependence on Him rather than self-reliance, will experience His covenant blessings. True religion reforms all of life—worship, work, justice, mercy, and rest.

Historical Context

Sabbath-breaking was a persistent problem in post-exilic Judah (Nehemiah 10:31, 13:15-22). Economic pressure tempted people to treat holy days as business opportunities, neglecting worship for commerce. This violated the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11) and demonstrated misplaced trust in human effort rather than divine provision. Nehemiah instituted reforms to restore Sabbath observance, recognizing that proper worship undergirded social justice and community health. The principle extended into the New Testament era, where Christians gathered on the Lord's Day for worship (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Revelation 1:10).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we cultivate genuine delight in God rather than merely performing religious duties?
2. What does Sabbath-keeping teach us about trust in God's provision versus self-reliance?
3. How does Christ's fulfillment of the Sabbath change our understanding of rest and worship?

Interlinear Text

אֶז	תִּתְעַנֵּג	עַל	יְהוָה	וְהִרְכַּבְתִּי יָךְ	עַל
H227	Then shalt thou delight	H5921	of the LORD	and I will cause thee to ride	H5921
	H6026		H3068	H7392	
בְּ מְוִתָּי	אֶרֶץ	וְהִאֲכַלְתִּי יָךְ	בְּנַחֲלָת	יַעֲקֹב ב	
upon the high places	of the earth	and feed	thee with the heritage	of Jacob	
H1116	H776	H398	H5159	H3290	
אָבִי יָךְ	כִּי	פִּי	יְהוָה	דִּבֶּר:	
thy father	H3588	for the mouth	of the LORD	hath spoken	
H1		H6310	H3068	H1696	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:13 (Parallel theme): He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Isaiah 33:16 (Parallel theme): He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Job 22:26 (Light): For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

Deuteronomy 33:29 (References Lord): Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Isaiah 40:5 (References Lord): And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Psalms 37:4 (Light): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Jeremiah 3:19 (Parallel theme): But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

Philippians 4:4 (References Lord): Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Job 27:10 (Light): Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?

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