

Isaiah 60:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Analysis

The stunning reversal continues: "The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee." Former oppressors' descendants will bow in submission. "And all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet." The most humiliating posture—bowing at feet—is adopted by former despisers. This echoes Revelation 3:9 where Christ promises that false worshipers will acknowledge the true church. The result: "and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel." Former enemies recognize Zion's identity as God's city, the dwelling place of the Holy One. From a Reformed perspective, this prophesies the vindication of God's people. Though presently persecuted and despised, believers will ultimately be honored (1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Revelation 3:9). This doesn't promote vengeance but demonstrates God's justice—truth will be vindicated, and those who opposed God's people will acknowledge their error. It also illustrates conversion—many former enemies become worshipers (Paul being the prime example, Acts 9).

Historical Context

Israel endured oppression from Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and others. The idea of their oppressors' descendants bowing seemed impossible. However, the gospel transformed former persecutors into believers. Paul, who persecuted the church,

bowed before Christ (Acts 9). Romans who crucified Christ became Christians. The spread of Christianity into formerly hostile territories fulfilled this. Eschatologically, every knee will bow and acknowledge Christ's lordship (Philippians 2:10-11), including those who pierced Him (Revelation 1:7).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's vindication of His people demonstrate His justice and faithfulness?
2. What comfort does this promise provide to believers currently facing persecution or contempt?
3. How does Paul's conversion from persecutor to apostle illustrate this prophecy's fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

thee shall come	H1980	אַל יְגַדֵּל כִּי	בְּנֵי שָׁחַד וּמְעַבֵּר יְהוָה	The sons also of them that afflicted	H6031
	H413		H7817	H1121	
thee shall bow yourselves down	H7812	וְשִׁתְּפָתְּחוּ אֶל	עַל כְּפָר וְתַּ	כָּל בְּגָל יְהוָה	H3605
	H5921		H3709	H7272	
unto thee and all they that despised	H5006	מִתְּאַצֵּא יְהוָה	וְיָקַרְאָה וְיִקְרָא	לְגֹתְרָה וְעַיר	thee The city
			H7121	H0	H5892
of the LORD	H3068	יְהָנָן הַ	קָדְשָׁךְ וְשִׁירָה	יִשְׁרָאֵל:	
The Zion	H6726	וְזִוְּנָה	וְזִוְּנָה וְזִוְּנָה	וְזִוְּנָה וְזִוְּנָה	
of the Holy One	H6918				
				H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Isaiah 49:23 (References Lord): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Hebrews 12:22 (Parallel theme): But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Isaiah 1:26 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 45:14 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Isaiah 62:12 (Holy): And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

Revelation 3:12 (Parallel theme): Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Jeremiah 16:19 (References Lord): O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

Revelation 14:1 (Parallel theme): And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Psalms 87:3 (Parallel theme): Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

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