

Isaiah 60:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Analysis

The nursing imagery appears again: "Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings." This reverses typical imperial relationships where subjected peoples provide tribute to conquering nations. Now Gentiles and kings provide nourishment and sustenance to Zion. The nursing metaphor suggests intimate care, life-giving support, and tender provision. The purpose clause is critical: "and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob." Three titles emphasize God's saving work: moshia (Saviour), goal (Redeemer), and the mighty One of Jacob. The result of experiencing salvation is knowing God truly. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates that salvation brings experiential knowledge of God, not merely intellectual assent. We know God as Saviour by experiencing salvation, as Redeemer by experiencing redemption, as mighty by experiencing His power. The reference to "Jacob" connects present salvation to ancient covenant promises—the same God who chose Jacob continues His faithful work.

Historical Context

During the monarchy and exile, Judah often paid tribute to foreign powers—Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Persia. The prophecy reversed this: nations would support Zion. Partially fulfilled through Persian support for temple rebuilding (Ezra 6:8-9) and Gentile contributions to early church (Romans 15:26-27, 2 Corinthians 8-9). Ultimately fulfilled as Gentile believers bring their resources to support gospel

work and sustain God's people. The knowledge of God as Saviour, Redeemer, and Mighty One comes through experiencing His salvation in Christ.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do Gentile believers provide sustenance and support for the church's mission?
2. What does it mean to 'know' God as Saviour, Redeemer, and Mighty One through experience?
3. How does God's covenant faithfulness to Jacob relate to His saving work in our lives?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| תִּינָךְ קִי | חֵלֶב | גוֹיִם | וְשֵׁד | מֶלֶךְ יָם |
| Thou shalt also suck | the milk | of the Gentiles | the breast | of kings |
| H3243 | H2461 | H1471 | H7699 | H4428 |
| תִּינָךְ קִי | וַיָּדַעַתְּ | כִּי | אֲנִי | יְהוָה |
| Thou shalt also suck | and thou shalt know | | | that I the LORD |
| H3243 | H3045 | H3588 | H589 | H3068 |
| מוֹשִׁיעַ | וְגֹאֲלִי | אֲבִיר | יַעֲקֹב | |
| am thy Saviour | and thy Redeemer | the mighty One | of Jacob | |
| H3467 | H1350 | H46 | H3290 | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:23 (Kingdom): 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.

Isaiah 66:14 (References Lord): And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Isaiah 61:6 (References Lord): But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Ezekiel 34:30 (References Lord): Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 59:20 (Redemption): And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.