

Isaiah 60:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

Analysis

The chapter concludes with promise of multiplication: "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation." The Hebrew *tsair* (little one) and *qatan* (small one) emphasize insignificant beginnings. Their transformation into "a thousand" (*eleph*) and "a strong nation" (*goy atsim*) demonstrates exponential growth and strength. Then the timing: "I the LORD will hasten it in his time." This seems paradoxical—hastening in His time—but it means God will accomplish it swiftly when the appointed time comes. The emphasis on "I the LORD" (*ani Adonai*) grounds certainty in divine character and sovereign power. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the mustard seed principle (Matthew 13:31-32)—the kingdom grows from insignificant beginnings to magnificent fulfillment. The church began with 120 disciples (Acts 1:15), grew to thousands (Acts 2:41, 4:4), and now spans the globe. This growth comes sovereignly at God's appointed times (Acts 1:7, Galatians 4:4, Ephesians 1:10). God hastens His purposes, and none can delay them (Isaiah 14:27, 46:10-11).

Historical Context

The post-exilic community was small and weak—a remnant compared to pre-exilic Judah. Growth seemed impossible given their circumstances. Yet God promised multiplication at His appointed time. Pentecost marked fulfillment's beginning—3,000 added in one day (Acts 2:41). The church's explosive growth continued throughout Acts (6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 19:20). This continues through church history

despite persecution. Complete fulfillment comes when the full number of the elect is gathered (Romans 11:25)—a multitude no one can number (Revelation 7:9).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of small beginnings growing to great fulfillment encourage believers in discouraging times?
2. What does 'I the LORD will hasten it in His time' teach about divine sovereignty and timing?
3. How should we balance evangelistic urgency with trust in God's sovereign control of the harvest?

Interlinear Text

הַקָּטָן	יְהוָה ה'	לֹא לָרַב	וְהַצָּעִיר	לִגְוֵי	עַם וָמָוֶה
A little one	H1961	shall become a thousand	and a small one	nation	a strong
H6996		H505	H6810	H1471	H6099
אֲנִי י'	יְהוָה ה'	בְּעֵת ה'	אֲחִישָׁנָה:		
H589	I the LORD	it in his time	will hasten		
	H3068	H6256	H2363		

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Hebrews 10:36 (Parallel theme): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Luke 18:7 (Parallel theme): And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Isaiah 66:8 (Parallel theme): Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

2 Peter 3:8 (References Lord): But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Revelation 7:9 (Parallel theme): After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Isaiah 5:19 (Parallel theme): That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!

Daniel 2:44 (Parallel theme): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Acts 5:14 (References Lord): And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Acts 2:41 (Parallel theme): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.