

Isaiah 61:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Analysis

The chapter concludes with beautiful imagery: "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth." The agricultural metaphors emphasize natural, inevitable growth—when seed is planted in good soil, growth follows necessarily. The application: "so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." Just as growth in nature is certain given proper conditions, so God's production of righteousness (tsedaqah) and praise (tehillah) among nations is certain and inevitable. The Hebrew tsimach (spring forth/sprout) suggests organic, vigorous growth. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the doctrine of perseverance and the certainty of God's purposes. When God plants His word in hearts prepared by the Spirit, fruit inevitably follows (Matthew 13:23, John 15:5). The promise is comprehensive—not just individual salvation but righteousness and praise springing forth before all nations. God's redemptive purposes will certainly be accomplished (Isaiah 55:10-11), producing a harvest of righteous worshipers from every nation.

Historical Context

The post-exilic community saw little evidence of such growth—they were small, weak, and relatively insignificant. Yet God promised inevitable fruitfulness. The

New Testament records explosive fulfillment—the gospel spreading rapidly throughout the Roman Empire and beyond (Acts 2:41, 4:4, 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 19:20, Colossians 1:6). Throughout church history, despite opposition and persecution, the gospel has continued producing righteousness and praise among all nations. This continues until the full harvest is gathered (Revelation 7:9-10, 14:14-16).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty of seed growth encourage us regarding the gospel's effectiveness?
2. What does it mean that God 'causes' righteousness and praise to spring forth?
3. How should the inevitability of God's purposes succeeding shape our evangelistic efforts and expectations?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כַּאֲרֵץ	תּוֹצֵא יָא	צִמְחָהּ הַ	וּכְגַן הַ
H3588	For as the earth	bringeth forth	her bud	and as the garden
	H776	H3318	H6780	H1593
יִזְרֹעַ יְהִי	יִצְמַח יִּי	כִּי יִן	אֲדֹנָי יְהוֹה	
causeth the things that are sown	in it to spring forth	H3651	so the Lord	H3068
H2221	H6779		H136	
יִצְמַח יִּי	צִדְקָהּ	וּתְהַלֵּל הַ	נָ גֵד	כָּל
in it to spring forth	will cause righteousness	and praise	H5048	H3605
H6779	H6666	H8416		
הַגִּוִּים:				
before all the nations				
H1471				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:11 (References Lord): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

1 Peter 2:9 (Resurrection): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Isaiah 62:7 (Resurrection): And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 62:1 (Righteousness): For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

Isaiah 45:8 (Righteousness): Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Psalms 85:11 (Righteousness): Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Isaiah 60:18 (Resurrection): Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Psalms 72:3 (Righteousness): The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.

Psalms 72:16 (Parallel theme): There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

Matthew 13:23 (Parallel theme): But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.