

Isaiah 61:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Analysis

God promises comprehensive restoration: "For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion." The double-for-single exchange reverses Job's experience—he received double restoration after suffering (Job 42:10). "Shame" (bosheth) and "confusion" (kelimah) describe humiliation and disgrace. Instead comes "double" blessing and rejoicing in their inheritance (cheleq). The verse continues: "therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them." Simchat olam (everlasting joy) emphasizes permanent, not temporary, gladness. The double possession likely means comprehensive blessing—temporal and eternal, material and spiritual. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the principle of overwhelming grace—God doesn't merely balance accounts but lavishes super-abundant blessing on the redeemed (Ephesians 1:7-8, Romans 5:20). Christ endured ultimate shame (Hebrews 12:2) so believers receive ultimate glory (Romans 8:17-18, 2 Corinthians 4:17). The temporary suffering of this age is incomparable to the eternal weight of glory awaiting believers.

Historical Context

The exile brought profound shame—Jerusalem destroyed, temple burned, people mocked by nations (Psalm 137:1-3, Lamentations 5:1). The returned remnant still experienced diminished circumstances and ongoing humiliation. God promised not just restoration to previous status but double blessing. Partial fulfillment came

through Christ's inauguration of the kingdom, but complete fulfillment awaits the consummated kingdom where all shame ends forever (Revelation 21:4) and believers reign eternally (Revelation 22:5). The suffering church experiences this principle—present afflictions preparing eternal glory (2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Romans 8:18).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of 'double for your shame' provide comfort in present humiliation or suffering?
2. What does 'everlasting joy' mean, and how does it differ from temporary happiness?
3. How does Christ's enduring of shame secure our eternal glory?

Interlinear Text

ירְאֵת כִּי
H7442 they shall rejoice
בְּשִׁתְּכֶם תִּשְׁמַנֵּה
H1322 For your shame
וְכָלַפְתִּי הַמְשֻׁנָּה
H3639 the double
בְּשִׁתְּכֶם תִּשְׁמַנֵּה
H4932 and for confusion

וְיִכְּשָׂא שְׁמַנֵּה
H3423 they shall possess
בְּאֶרֶץ לְכִי מְשֻׁנָּה
H776 therefore in their land
בְּשִׁתְּכֶם תִּשְׁמַנֵּה
H4932 the double
in their portion
H2506

לְקָמָן תְּהִנֵּה שְׁמַנֵּה תְּ
H1961 everlasting
joy
H8057

Additional Cross-References

Job 42:10 (Parallel theme): And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Zechariah 9:12 (Parallel theme): Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

Isaiah 40:2 (Parallel theme): Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Psalms 16:11 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

2 Kings 2:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

Isaiah 51:11 (Eternal Life): Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:10 (Eternal Life): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Eternal Life): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Matthew 25:46 (Eternal Life): And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (Eternal Life): Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,