

# Isaiah 61:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.

## Analysis

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The covenant blessings extend to descendants: "And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people." The Hebrew *zera* (seed) and *ts'e'etsa'eihem* (offspring) emphasize generational blessing. Their identity among the nations will be unmistakable. Why? "All that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed." The Hebrew *nakar* (acknowledge/recognize) suggests undeniable recognition. The blessing is evident and attributed to God. From a Reformed perspective, this doesn't teach hereditary salvation but describes the visible impact of God's covenant faithfulness. Believers' descendants, when regenerated by the Spirit, display evident blessing that others recognize as divine work. The promise also applies to spiritual descendants—those who come to faith through believers' witness (1 Corinthians 4:15, Philemon 10). The church's generational faithfulness creates visible testimony to God's blessing, attracting others to faith (Matthew 5:16). This fulfills the Abrahamic promise that through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 22:18, Galatians 3:8, 16).

## Historical Context

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Post-exilic Israel hoped their descendants would be honored among nations, reversing the shame of exile. Partial fulfillment came through faithful Jewish

communities that maintained godliness and attracted Gentile proselytes. Ultimate fulfillment is in the church—both physical descendants of Abraham who believe in Christ and spiritual descendants (Gentile believers) being recognized as blessed by God (Galatians 3:7-9, 29). The church's multigenerational faithfulness testifies to God's covenant faithfulness across centuries, visible evidence of divine blessing drawing others to faith.

## Related Passages

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

1. How should believers' lives be so visibly blessed that others recognize God's work?
2. What responsibility comes with being 'the seed which the LORD has blessed'?
3. How does the promise of blessing to descendants encourage faithful parenting and discipleship?

## Interlinear Text

וְיַדְעֵנָה	בְּגָנִים	וְיִרְאֶה	וְיִתְהַלֵּךְ	וְיִצְאֶאָה	בַּתְּרוֹת
<b>shall be known</b>	<b>among the Gentiles</b>	<b>And their seed</b>	<b>and their offspring</b>	<b>among</b>	
H3045	H1471	H2233	H6631		H8432
the people	all that see	them shall acknowledge			
H5971	H7200	H5234	H3588	H1992	H2233
בָּנָם יִתְהַלֵּךְ	רְאֵיכֶם כִּי יִפְרַח וּמָתַת	וְיִתְהַלֵּךְ כִּי יִפְרַח וּמָתַת			
<b>hath blessed</b>	<b>which the LORD</b>				
H1288	H3068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 44:3** (Blessing): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

**Psalms 115:14** (References Lord): The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

**Acts 3:26** (Blessing): Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

**Genesis 22:18** (Blessing): And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

**Isaiah 65:23** (Blessing): They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

**Zechariah 8:13** (Blessing): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

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