

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

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 *tse'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

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

Psalms 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

וְנוֹדָע	בְּגוֹיִם	זֶרַע	וְצֵאצְאֵיהֶם	בֵּת וְ
shall be known	among the Gentiles	And their seed	and their offspring	among
H3045	H1471	H2233	H6631	H8432
הָעַם יִם	כָּל	רְאִיֵּיהֶם	יִכִּיר וְ	הֵם כִּי
the people	H3605	all that see	them shall acknowledge	H3588 H1992
H5971	H7200	H5234		And their seed H2233
בֵּרַךְ	יְהוָה:			
hath blessed	which the LORD			
H1288	H3068			

Additional Cross-References

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.