

Isaiah 64:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Analysis

'But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.' The 'but now' (attah) marks a turn from despair to hope. Despite everything, God remains 'our father.' The potter/clay imagery (see Jeremiah 18) acknowledges divine sovereignty and human dependence. We are His 'work' (ma'aseh).

Historical Context

This confession combines intimacy (father) with submission (potter/clay). It recognizes that only God's sovereign refashioning can change their condition.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the potter/clay metaphor balance with God as Father?
2. What areas of your life need the Potter's reshaping?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה ה	יְהוָה ה	אָב יֵנוּ	אָ תְּה	אֲנִי חֵנוּ	הֵחַ מָר
H6258	But now O LORD	thou art our father	H859	H587	we are the clay
	H3068	H1			H2563
וְאַתָּה ה	יָצַרְנוּ	וּמַעֲשֵׂי ה	יָדְךָ	כָּלֵנוּ:	
H859	and thou our potter	and we all are the work	of thy hand	H3605	
	H3335	H4639	H3027		

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:10 (Parallel theme): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Psalms 119:73 (Parallel theme): Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Psalms 138:8 (References Lord): The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Psalms 100:3 (References Lord): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Isaiah 63:16 (References Lord): Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Isaiah 29:16 (Parallel theme): Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

Isaiah 45:9 (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Isaiah 44:24 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Isaiah 44:21 (Parallel theme): Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Isaiah 43:7 (Parallel theme): Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org