

Isaiah 65:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Analysis

God commands transformed response: "But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy." The imperative *sisu* (be glad) and *gilu* (rejoice) call for active celebration. The duration is *ad-ad* (forever and ever)—perpetual gladness. The reason: God creates (*bore*—the same verb as Genesis 1:1) something new. He creates Jerusalem as *gilah* (rejoicing) and her people as *mesos* (joy)—not just experiencing joy but embodying it. This anticipates Revelation 21:1-2's new heaven and new earth with the New Jerusalem. From a Reformed perspective, this describes the consummated kingdom where God's creative work reaches culmination. Just as He created the first heavens and earth, He creates new ones. Believers don't merely enter a improved version of the old but participate in genuinely new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21:5). The transformation is so complete that the people themselves become joy—their very existence is joyful praise to God.

Historical Context

The post-exilic community rebuilt physical Jerusalem, but it remained vulnerable and diminished. This prophecy looked beyond earthly restoration to the ultimate new creation. Jesus announced the kingdom's presence (Luke 17:21) and promised His return to consummate it (John 14:1-3). The church is presently new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15), experiencing foretastes of the coming glory. Complete fulfillment awaits the new heaven and new earth where God dwells with His people forever (Revelation 21:1-4).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should believers practice rejoicing 'forever' in what God is creating?
2. What does it mean that God creates His people as 'joy'—not just joyful but embodying joy itself?
3. How do we experience foretastes of the new creation while living in the present age?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אִם	שֶׁ יֵשׁוּ	וְגַ יְלֹ	עַדִּי	עַד	אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי
H3588	H518	But be ye glad	and rejoice	for ever	H5704	H834	H589
		H7797	H1523	H5703			
בּוֹרֵא	הִנֵּנִי	כִּי	בּוֹרֵא	אֶת	יְרוּשָׁלַם	גִּילָה	
for behold I create	H3588	H2005	for behold I create	H853	Jerusalem	a rejoicing	
H1254			H1254		H3389	H1525	
וְעַמָּהּ	מְשׁוֹשׁ:						
and her people	a joy						
H5971	H4885						