

Isaiah 65:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Analysis

A difficult but important promise: "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed." This verse has generated interpretive debate. The most likely meaning within its context: in the renewed earth, lifespans will extend dramatically (like pre-flood patriarchs), with someone dying at 100 considered premature ("a child"). Yet death still exists for the "sinner"—suggesting a millennial or transitional period before the final eternal state where death is completely abolished (Revelation 21:4). From a Reformed perspective, this may describe conditions during Christ's millennial reign (Revelation 20:1-6) before the final judgment and new creation. Alternatively, it may be symbolic language describing the dramatic improvements in the restored order without being strictly literal. The key point: God's restoration dramatically reverses the curse, extending life and health, though complete perfection awaits the final state.

Historical Context

Post-exilic life expectancy was far shorter than patriarchal ages (Genesis 5). The prophecy promised dramatic improvement—lifespans extending to hundreds of years, suggesting a restoration toward pre-fall conditions. This looked beyond

immediate historical fulfillment to the Messianic age and ultimately the consummated kingdom. The New Testament describes believers already experiencing eternal life (John 3:36, 5:24) while still subject to physical death, with complete resurrection and glorification awaiting Christ's return (1 Corinthians 15:51-57, Philippians 3:20-21).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this verse relate to other promises about death being abolished (Revelation 21:4)?
2. What does dramatically extended lifespan symbolize about God's restoration of creation?
3. How should we understand progressive fulfillment—the 'already' and 'not yet' of kingdom promises?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יְהִי הֵ	מִשָּׁם	עַד	עַל	יָמָיו
H3808	H1961	H8033	H5750	H5764	H3117
There shall be no more thence an infant					his days
וְזָקֵן	אִישׁ	לֹא	יִמְלֵא	אֶת	יָמָיו
H2205	H834	H3808	H4390	H853	H3588
nor an old man		that hath not filled		his days	
בֶּן	יְהִי	חֹטֵא	וְיָמֹות	שָׁנָה	מֵאָה
H5288	H1121	H3967	H8141	H4191	H2398
for the child	old	an hundred	years	shall die	but the sinner
בֶּן	יְהִי	חֹטֵא	וְיָמֹות	שָׁנָה	מֵאָה
H5288	H1121	H3967	H8141	H4191	H2398
for the child	old	an hundred	years	shall die	but the sinner
יִקְלָל:	שָׁנָה	מֵאָה	הֵ		
H7043	H8141	H3967	H1121		
shall be accursed	years	an hundred	years		

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 4:40 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.