

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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לֹא	יְהִי	מִשְׁמָרָה	עַד	עַל	יְמִינָה	לֹא	יְמִינָה
H3808	H1961	H8033	H5750	There shall be no more thence an infant	H5764	his days	H3117
לֹא	אָשָׁר	לֹא	יְמִלָּא	אַתָּה	יְמִינָה	לֹא	יְמִינָה
nor an old man	H834	H3808	that hath not filled	H853	his days	H3588	H3117
H2205			H4390				
בְּן	בְּנֵי	מֵא	שָׁתַּה	יְמִינָה	בְּן	בְּנֵי	בְּן
for the child	old	an hundred	years	shall die	but the sinner	old	H1121
H5288	H1121	H3967	H8141	H4191	H2398	H1121	
בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	מֵא	שָׁתַּה	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	
an hundred	years	shall be accursed	H7043				
H3967	H8141						

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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