

Isaiah 65:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

Analysis

God promises security and enjoyment: "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them." This reverses the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 28:30: "Thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof." The covenant blessings promised the opposite (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). Building and inhabiting, planting and eating represent comprehensive security and satisfaction—enjoying the fruits of one's labor without fear of dispossession. From a Reformed perspective, this pictures the security believers have in Christ—our inheritance is certain (1 Peter 1:3-5, Ephesians 1:13-14), we will enjoy what God has prepared (1 Corinthians 2:9), and no enemy can rob us of our eternal reward (Romans 8:31-39). The principle applies both to present sanctification (enjoying fruits of Spirit-empowered obedience) and future glorification (enjoying eternal rewards in new creation).

Historical Context

Throughout Israel's history, covenant unfaithfulness brought the curses—enemies destroying what they built, confiscating what they planted (Deuteronomy 28:30, 33, 51, Amos 5:11, Zephaniah 1:13). The exile epitomized this—Babylon destroyed homes and vineyards. The return began reversing this (Nehemiah 5:3-5, 11, Amos 9:14), but complete fulfillment awaits the consummated kingdom. Jesus promised inheritance and abundant life (Matthew 5:5, John 10:10). Believers presently enjoy

spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) and will eternally enjoy the new creation (Revelation 22:1-5).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does security in Christ parallel the promise of building and inhabiting without fear?
2. What 'fruits' of our spiritual labor will we enjoy in the consummated kingdom?
3. How should certainty of future reward shape present faithfulness in 'building' and 'planting'?

Interlinear Text

וְבָנָה אָ	בָּתָה יִם	יִשְׁבַּת בָּו	וְיַשְׁטַע אִתְּ	כַּרְמֵם יִם
And they shall build	houses	and inhabit	them and they shall plant	vineyards
H1129	H1004	H3427	H5193	H3754
אֲכַל אֶת פְּ�רִיּוֹת				
and eat the fruit				
H398	H6529			

Additional Cross-References

Amos 9:14 (Parallel theme): And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant

vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

Isaiah 32:18 (Parallel theme): And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isaiah 37:30 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.

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