

Isaiah 65:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Analysis

The promise continues: "They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat." This emphatically restates verse 21's promise—complete security without dispossession. Then comes the comparison: "for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Trees live for centuries or millennia (oaks, cedars), suggesting dramatic lifespan extension. The term "mine elect" (bechirai) explicitly identifies these promises as for God's chosen people—the remnant according to election. "Long enjoy" (yebalu) means wearing out or using fully—comprehensive, sustained enjoyment. From a Reformed perspective, the explicit reference to "the elect" confirms these promises are for those sovereignly chosen by God (Ephesians 1:4-5, 2 Thessalonians 2:13). The security isn't based on human effort but divine election—God ensures His chosen people inherit and enjoy what He has prepared. The tree imagery suggests deep rootedness, stability, and longevity—characteristics of those firmly planted in God's grace (Psalm 1:3, 92:12-14).

Historical Context

The exile's horror included watching enemies inhabit their homes and consume their produce (Lamentations 5:2-3). The return began reversing this, but complete security eluded them under Persian, Greek, and Roman domination. The promises

ultimately apply to spiritual realities. Christ secured an inheritance that cannot fade or be taken away (1 Peter 1:3-5). The elect will eternally enjoy what Christ has prepared (John 14:2-3, Revelation 21:1-7). Their enjoyment is not transitory but eternal, secured by God's sovereign purpose and Christ's accomplished redemption.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the explicit reference to 'my elect' teach about who inherits these promises?
2. How does the tree imagery describe the stability and longevity of the redeemed?
3. In what ways do the elect 'long enjoy the work of their hands' both now and eternally?

Interlinear Text

ל	יבנו	וְאֶחָד	וְיִשְׁבֶּה	ל	וְיִטְעֶה
H3808	They shall not build	and another	inhabit	H3808	they shall not plant
	H1129	H312	H3427		H5193
וְאֶחָד	וְיִמְאַת	וְיִאָכֶל	וְיִמְאַת	וְיִמְאַת	וְיִמְאַת
and another	eat	are the days	of a tree	are the days	of my people
H312	H398	H3588	H3117	H6086	H3117
וְמַעַשׂ הַ	יְדֵיכֶם	וְיִבְלֹא	בְּחִינֵּן		
the work	of their hands	shall long enjoy	and mine elect		
H4639	H3027	H1086	H972		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:16 (Parallel theme): With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Psalms 21:4 (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

Isaiah 65:15 (Parallel theme): And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen; for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

Isaiah 65:9 (Parallel theme): And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.

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