

Isaiah 66:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.

Analysis

The nursing imagery returns with rich meaning: "That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory." The Hebrew *yanaq* (suck/nurse) and *matsah* (milk out) describe infants nursing—complete dependence and satisfaction. The "breasts of consolations" (*shedei tanchumeiha*) provide comfort, and the "abundance of glory" (*ziz kevodah*) offers delight. Jerusalem/Zion functions as mother providing spiritual nourishment. From a Reformed perspective, this describes the church's role as mother of believers (Galatians 4:26). The church provides the means of grace—Word, sacraments, fellowship—through which believers are spiritually nourished and comforted. God feeds His people through the ministry of His body. The satisfaction and delight emphasize that spiritual nourishment fully satisfies—no deficiency, no lingering hunger. Christ, the bread of life, fully satisfies those who come to Him (John 6:35), and His body the church mediates that satisfaction through gospel ministry.

Historical Context

The post-exilic community needed reassurance that restored Jerusalem would provide genuine spiritual satisfaction, not merely physical reconstruction. The promise looked beyond earthly city to the church as mother. Believers find spiritual nourishment in the faith community (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:24-25). The early church experienced this richly—spiritual consolation and abundant life flowing

through gathered believers ministering to one another (Acts 4:32-35, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Complete fulfillment comes in the New Jerusalem where the river of life and tree of life provide perpetual nourishment (Revelation 22:1-2).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the church function as spiritual mother providing nourishment and comfort?
2. What are the 'breasts of consolations' and 'abundance of glory' that the church provides?
3. How can we ensure we're being adequately nourished through participation in the church's means of grace?

Interlinear Text

לִמְ עֵן	תִּינָקוּ	וּשְׂבַעְתֶּם	מִשֵּׁ ד	תְּנוּחַתִּי
H4616	That ye may suck	and be satisfied	with the breasts	of her consolations
	H3243	H7646	H7699	H8575

לִמְ עֵן	תִּמְ צוֹ	וְהִתְעַנְגַּתֶּם	מִזֵּ יוֹ	כְּבוֹדָהּ
H4616	that ye may milk out	and be delighted	with the abundance	of her glory
	H4711	H6026	H2123	H3519

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:16 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Joel 3:18 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Isaiah 60:5 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

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