

Isaiah 66:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.

Analysis

God promises comprehensive blessing: "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream." The imagery is abundant—peace (shalom) like a river (nahar), Gentile glory like a flowing stream (nachal shotef). Rivers and streams suggest continuous, abundant, life-giving flow. Peace encompasses total well-being, not merely absence of conflict. Gentile glory coming to Zion fulfills earlier promises (Isaiah 60:3-16). The verse continues with tender imagery: "then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees." Three verbs depict maternal care: nursing (yanaq), carrying (nasa), dandling/bouncing affectionately (sha'a). From a Reformed perspective, this describes comprehensive covenant blessing—spiritual peace, material provision, tender care. God provides everything His people need through His appointed means. The Gentile glory coming into the kingdom enriches the church. The maternal imagery emphasizes God's tender care for His people, mediated through the church community.

Historical Context

The post-exilic community experienced material hardship and political insecurity. God promised abundant peace and prosperity, particularly through Gentiles bringing resources. Initial fulfillment came through Persian support (Ezra 6:8-12,

7:11-26). Greater fulfillment came in the church age as Gentile believers brought resources to support gospel work (Romans 15:26-27, 2 Corinthians 8-9, Philippians 4:15-18). Complete fulfillment awaits the consummated kingdom where the nations bring their glory into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:24-26) and God's people experience perfect peace and comprehensive care forever (Revelation 21:3-4, 22:1-5).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does peace 'like a river' look like in the Christian life and church community?
2. How do Gentile believers bringing their 'glory' enrich the church?
3. What does God's tender, maternal-like care mean for believers experiencing difficulty or insecurity?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	הִנֵּנִי	נֹטֶה	אֶל־לִי
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	H2005	Behold I will extend	H413
		H559	H3068		H5186	
רַ	כְּנָהַר	וְכַנֵּחַל	שָׁלֵם	שׁוֹטֵף	כְּבֹד	גִּלּוֹת
	to her like a river	peace	stream	like a flowing	and the glory	of the Gentiles
	H5104	H7965	H5158	H7857	H3519	H1471
וַיִּנְקֹתָ	עַל	צִדָּהּ	תִּנָּשׂ	אֲנִי	וְעַל	בְּרִכְיָם
then shall ye suck	H5921	upon her sides	ye shall be borne	H5921	upon her knees	
H3243		H6654	H5375		H1290	
וְתִשָּׂשׂוּ:						
and be dandled						
H8173						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:18 (Peace): O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Isaiah 45:14 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Isaiah 60:16 (References Lord): 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.

Isaiah 9:7 (Peace): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 61:6 (Glory): But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Isaiah 54:3 (Parallel theme): For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

Isaiah 66:11 (Glory): 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.

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