

Isaiah 66:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Analysis

The promise continues: "And when ye see it, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb." The response to God's comfort is profound—heart rejoicing and bones flourishing. "Bones" (atsam) represent the whole person, especially physical vitality. The simile "like herb" (ka'deshe) suggests green, vigorous growth—comprehensive restoration. Then comes distinction: "and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies." God's "hand" represents His powerful activity—blessing for servants, judgment for enemies. The Hebrew noada (be known) means revealed, made evident—both blessing and judgment become unmistakable. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the double outcome of divine activity. God's work brings joy and flourishing to the elect while bringing judgment to the reprobate. The same sun melts wax and hardens clay; the same gospel saves some and condemns others (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). God's servants recognize His favor; His enemies experience His wrath (Romans 2:5-9).

Historical Context

The prophecy promised that seeing God's restoration would produce joy and vitality among the faithful while confirming judgment on the rebellious. Partial fulfillment came when the faithful returned from exile while the wicked faced

judgment. Greater fulfillment came through Christ—His advent brought joy to those who believed (Luke 2:10-14, John 15:11) while pronouncing judgment on those who rejected Him (John 3:18, 36). This pattern continues throughout the church age—the gospel producing life and death, salvation and condemnation. Final fulfillment comes at Christ's return when the division becomes eternal (Matthew 25:31-46, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does genuine spiritual health manifest in both 'heart' and 'bones'—inner and outer life?
2. What does it mean that God's 'hand' is known differently by servants versus enemies?
3. How should the reality of God's indignation toward His enemies shape our evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

וּרְאִיתֶם	וְשָׂשׂ	לִבְכֶּם	וְעַצְמוֹתֵיכֶם	כִּדְּשֵׁא
And when ye see	shall rejoice	this your heart	and your bones	like an herb
H7200	H7797	H3820	H6106	H1877
תִּפְרֹחַ חֲנָה	וְנוֹדָעָה	יָד	יְהוָה	אֶת
shall flourish	shall be known	and the hand	of the LORD	H854
H6524	H3045	H3027	H3068	H5650
וְזַעַם	אֶת	אֹיְבָיו:		
and his indignation	H854	toward his enemies		
H2194		H341		

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 10:7 (References Lord): And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Ezra 7:9 (Parallel theme): For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

Ezra 8:31 (Parallel theme): Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

Ezra 8:22 (Parallel theme): For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

Proverbs 3:8 (Parallel theme): It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Proverbs 17:22 (Parallel theme): A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Hebrews 10:27 (Parallel theme): But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Isaiah 58:11 (References Lord): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isaiah 10:5 (Parallel theme): O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

Isaiah 26:19 (Parallel theme): Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

