

Psalms 112:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Analysis

His seed shall be mighty upon earth (זַרְעוֹ יְהִי גִבּוֹר בָּאָרֶץ)—Zera (seed, offspring, descendants) promises generational blessing flowing from personal godliness. Gibbor (mighty, strong, valiant) suggests not merely numerous descendants but influential, empowered ones. This echoes Abrahamic covenant promises (Genesis 12:2, 22:17) and Deuteronomic blessings for covenant obedience (Deuteronomy 28:4). The righteous person's legacy extends beyond their lifespan, their children inheriting spiritual and material advantages.

The generation of the upright shall be blessed (דּוֹר יִשְׁרָיִם יְבָרַךְ)—Dor (generation) expands from immediate children to subsequent generations. Yescharim (upright, straight) describes moral integrity and covenant faithfulness. Yeborakh (shall be blessed) promises divine favor as covenant consequence. Proverbs repeatedly affirms this principle (Proverbs 11:21, 13:22, 20:7), though Job and Ecclesiastes nuance it, and the New Testament spiritualizes 'seed' to include spiritual descendants (Galatians 3:29).

Historical Context

Psalms 112 is the companion acrostic to Psalm 111, shifting from God's character to the godly person's blessedness. Written for Second Temple worship, this psalm reinforced covenant theology in a community rebuilding after exile. The emphasis on generational blessing encouraged faithfulness despite present hardship, promising that righteousness bears fruit beyond one's lifetime. Ancient Israelite

culture was deeply communal and generational—individual righteousness benefited the family and clan, while individual sin brought corporate consequences.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does parental godliness create spiritual and practical advantages for children without guaranteeing their salvation?
2. In what ways can childless believers leave a godly 'generation' through spiritual mentoring and discipleship?
3. How do prosperity gospel distortions of this verse differ from its covenantal understanding of generational blessing?

Interlinear Text

גִּבּ וֹר	בְּ אֶרֶץ	יְהִי ה	זֶרַע ו	ד וֹר	יֶשֶׁר יִם
shall be mighty	upon earth	H1961	His seed	the generation	of the upright
H1368	H776		H2233	H1755	H3477
יְבָרֵךְ:					
shall be blessed					
H1288					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 17:7 (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Psalms 37:26 (Blessing): He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

Proverbs 20:7 (Blessing): The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Acts 2:39 (Parallel theme): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Psalms 102:28 (Parallel theme): The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

Psalms 25:13 (Parallel theme): His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Jeremiah 32:39 (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: