

Psalms 37:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

Analysis

The righteous shall inherit the land (צַדִּיקִים יִרְשׁוּ־אֶרֶץ, tsaddiqim yirshu-erets)—the verb yarash (inherit/possess/dispossess) was used for Israel's conquest of Canaan, now applied to righteous remnant's inheritance. **And dwell therein for ever** (וַיִּשְׁכְּנוּ לָעַד עֲלֶיהָ, v'yishkenu la'ad aleha)—shakan (dwell) appears again, emphasizing permanent habitation. This repeats verse 22's promise with different vocabulary, framing the entire section with inheritance theology.

Jesus's Beatitude, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5), quotes this tradition. Peter speaks of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven" (1 Peter 1:4). The land promise transcends geography, becoming the new creation where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13).

Historical Context

For exiled Jews who lost the physical land, this verse offered eschatological hope: the righteous remnant would return and dwell permanently. Christian interpretation sees fulfillment in the New Jerusalem, where God's people inherit the renewed earth, fulfilling Abraham's ultimate promise (Romans 4:13).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your future inheritance (new creation) shape your present priorities and attachments to earthly possessions?
2. In what sense are you already 'inheriting' and 'dwelling' in God's kingdom now, and how does this anticipate eternal fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

צַדִּיקִים	יִירְשׁוּ,	אֶת הָאֲרֶץ	וַיִּשְׁכְּנוּ וּ	לָעַד	עַלֶּיהָ:
The righteous	shall inherit	the land	and dwell	therein for ever	H5921
H6662	H3423	H776	H7931	H5703	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 2:21 (Parallel theme): For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

Psalms 37:9 (Parallel theme): For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Revelation 21:7 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Psalms 37:11 (Parallel theme): But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalms 37:18 (Parallel theme): The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

2 Peter 3:13 (Righteousness): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Deuteronomy 30:20 (Parallel theme): That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he

is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

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