

he has filled out his days. If one dies at the age of a hundred years it will be considered that he was only a child when he died, and one who dies at such an age will be thought of as having deserved the wrath of God that he should fail to share in the blessing which comes to the bulk of the people.

It is interesting to note that sin and death are still present in this verse, even though greatly decreased in power. Death, which is the last enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), has not yet been entirely eradicated. Delitzsch points out that it is not "the final annulling of death" that is spoken of here, but "only the limiting of its power."

In verses 21-23 longevity is still in view. The days of the people are to be like the days of a tree. Like the palm tree or the cedar, they are to live for centuries. Life is to be sturdy and strong, not cut off after a brief interval, as is so often the fact in the present age of sorrow. In these verses the removal of war and trouble are stressed. One is not to build and another inhabit, either because of premature death or because of war and turmoil. Each will enjoy the fruit of his labor and will live a long life of peace and happiness. The similarity between this passage and the wonderful descriptions of the promised millennium in Isaiah 2:24 and 11:4-9 and in Micah 4:1-4 is very striking.

The end of verse 23 seems to hark back very definitely to the prayer of 63:7-64:12. There emphasis was laid upon the claim that the people were the descendants of those whom God had promised to bless and that consequently He should not withdraw His favor from them. Although God declared that He would withdraw his favor for a time, this verse reminds us that there is still a considerable element of truth in the prayer. God has promised great blessings to those who are true to Him and these blessings are to continue upon their descendants for thousands of generations (Deut. 7:9). It is necessary that an individual personally receive Christ as his Saviour if he is to be born again and receive the divine blessing; yet there is a very real sense in which the blessing of God is continued upon the descendants of those who are His, and every parent has a right to claim God's blessing upon his children. This thought is stressed repeatedly in the Bible.