

Ezekiel 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Analysis

God promises restoration: "I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." This prophecy had partial fulfillment in the post-exilic return under Ezra and Nehemiah, but awaits complete fulfillment in Christ's millennial kingdom. The threefold promise—gathering, assembling, giving the land—emphasizes divine initiative in restoration. God doesn't merely permit return but actively brings it about. The Reformed emphasis on unconditional election and effectual calling appears: God's promises don't depend on human merit but on His sovereign grace and covenant faithfulness.

Historical Context

This promise (592 BC) preceded Jerusalem's destruction by six years, offering hope before the darkest hour. The initial fulfillment came through Cyrus' decree (539 BC) allowing Jewish return, though only a remnant returned under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The promise encompasses both physical return to the land and spiritual restoration to covenant relationship. Modern debates over this prophecy involve whether it finds complete fulfillment in the 1948 establishment of Israel or awaits future millennial restoration. The New Testament expands "Israel" to include Gentile believers grafted into the covenant (Romans 11:17-24), suggesting spiritual and physical fulfillment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign initiative in gathering scattered Israel encourage believers to trust His promises?
2. What is the relationship between physical restoration to the promised land and spiritual restoration to covenant relationship?

Interlinear Text

לֵךְ H3651	אָמַר H559	כֹּה H3541	אָמַר H559	אֲדֹנָי י H136	יְהוָה H3068	אֶקְבֹּצֶת י H6908
	Therefore say	Therefore say	the Lord			I will even gather
אֶתְכֶם H853	מִן H4480	הָ עַם יִם H5971	וְאִסְפֶּת י H622	אֶתְכֶם H853	מִן H4480	
	you from the people	and assemble				
הָ אֶרֶצַּ וּת H776	אֲשֶׁר H834	נִפְצוֹתֶיךָ H6327	בָּהֶם H0			
you out of the countries	where ye have been scattered					
וְנָתַתִּי י H5414	לְךָ H0	אֶת H853	אֶדְמָת H127	יִשְׂרָאֵל: H3478		
and I will give	you the land	of Israel				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:25 (References God): Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and

shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob.

Jeremiah 3:18 (References Israel): In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

Ezekiel 34:13 (References Israel): And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

Jeremiah 24:5 (References God): Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

Ezekiel 36:24 (Parallel theme): For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Jeremiah 3:12 (References Lord): Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.

Ezekiel 20:41 (Parallel theme): I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.