

Ezekiel 16:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them:

Analysis

When I shall bring again their captivity (שׁׁבָּתָה, shuv shevut)—this phrase means to restore fortunes, reverse captivity. God promises future restoration for **Sodom and her daughters** and **Samaria and her daughters**, with **thy captives in the midst of them** indicating Jerusalem's restoration will occur alongside theirs, not privileged above them.

This verse introduces the gospel reversal: grace extends beyond covenant Israel to Gentiles (Sodom represents Gentile wickedness). Romans 11 develops this theology—Jewish hardening brings Gentile inclusion, and Israel's eventual restoration will occur alongside redeemed Gentiles. The phrase in the midst of them suggests Jerusalem won't be exalted above restored Gentiles but joined equally in God's mercy. This prepares for verses 60-63, which promise a new everlasting covenant superseding Sinai.

Historical Context

This restoration prophecy looks beyond the historical return from Babylonian exile (538 BC) to eschatological restoration in Christ's kingdom. 'Sodom's restoration cannot be literal (the city was obliterated), thus pointing to spiritual restoration of

Gentiles from every nation. The New Testament reveals this mystery—Gentiles included in God's covenant people through Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of Sodom's restoration magnify the reach of God's redeeming grace?
2. What does Jerusalem's restoration 'in the midst of them' teach about equality in the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁבְתִּי	את	וְשִׁבְתִּית	את	וְשִׁבְתִּית	וְשִׁבְתִּית	סָדָם
When I shall bring again	H853	and the captivity	H853	and the captivity	H7622	of Sodom
	H7725				H7622	H5467
וּבְנֹתִתִּי יְהִי	את	וְשִׁבְתִּית	שְׁמַרְ וְיִתְ	וּבְנֹתִתִּי יְהִי		
and her daughters	H853	and the captivity	H8111	and her daughters	H1323	
	H1323					
בְּתוּךְהַנָּהָר: שִׁבְתִּית יְהִי						
and the captivity	H7628	in the midst	H8432			
	H7622					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 39:25 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

Ezekiel 29:14 (Parallel theme): And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom.

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