

Ezekiel 17:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.

Analysis

The mountain imagery evokes Zion, God's holy hill from which His reign extends (Psalm 2:6, Isaiah 2:2-3). The universal gathering of 'fowl of every wing' represents all nations finding refuge in Messiah's kingdom (Matthew 8:11, Revelation 7:9). This reverses the eagle judgment imagery—God's king provides shelter rather than destruction.

Historical Context

Israel's calling was always to bless all nations (Genesis 12:3). Ezekiel's contemporary Jeremiah also prophesied a righteous Branch from David who would reign wisely (Jeremiah 23:5-6), promises fulfilled in Christ.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should the global, multi-ethnic nature of Christ's kingdom shape your view of missions and evangelism?
2. What shelter and provision have you found in Christ that you could share with others?

Interlinear Text

וְאַשְׁתָּלֵךְ כֵּן יִשְׁרָאֵל מִן־הַר וּמִן־גַּתְּרָה
In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it and it shall bring forth
H2022 H4791 H3478 H8362 H5375

אֲדַר־בָּרְעָלְךָ וְאַתְּ שָׁהַנְּתָרָךְ
boughs and bear fruit cedar and be a goodly
H6057 H6213 H6529 H1961 H730 H117

כָּל־צְפָרְנָה תְּשַׁקְּפָנָה
and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing
H7931 H8478 H3605 H6833 H3605 H3671

בָּאֵל תְּשַׁקְּפָנָה דְּלִיזְמָתָה
in the shadow of the branches and under it shall dwell
H6738 H1808 H7931

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:32 (Parallel theme): Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Ezekiel 31:6 (Parallel theme): All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

Isaiah 2:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Galatians 3:28 (Parallel theme): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Hosea 14:7 (Parallel theme): They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

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