

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

Psalms 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

בְּהָר	מִרְוֵם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶשְׁתַּלְּנוּ	וְנִשְׂא		
In the mountain	of the height	of Israel	will I plant	it and it shall bring forth		
H2022	H4791	H3478	H8362	H5375		
עֲנָף	וְעָשָׂה	פֶּרִי	וְהָיָה	לְאֵזֶז	אֶדְיָר	
boughs	and bear	fruit	H1961	cedar	and be a goodly	
H6057	H6213	H6529		H730	H117	
תִּשְׁכְּנָהּ:		תַּחֲתָיו	כָּל	צֶפֶר	כָּל	כְּנָף
and under it shall dwell		H8478	H3605	all fowl	H3605	of every wing
H7931				H6833		H3671
בְּצֵל	דְּלִיּוֹת	תִּשְׁכְּנָהּ:				
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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