

Ezekiel 28:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

Analysis

And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them—The recognition formula with possessive pronoun: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם (YHWH ʾĕlōhêhem, 'the LORD their God'). Not just acknowledging God exists, but recognizing their covenant relationship restored.

Israel's suffering through exile and oppression by hostile neighbors created spiritual crisis: had God abandoned them? Restoration and judgment on enemies would prove God's covenant remained intact. **And they shall know**—experiential knowledge (יָדָע, yādaʿ) through historical fulfillment. God's faithfulness is demonstrated through both discipline (exile) and deliverance (restoration/enemies' judgment). This concluding verse of the oracles against nations (chapters 25-28) transitions to Egypt's judgment (chapters 29-32), after which Israel's full restoration is detailed (chapters 33-48).

Historical Context

The exile raised profound theological questions addressed in Lamentations, Psalms 74, 79, 137, and prophetic books. Had God divorced Israel? Were the gods of

Babylon stronger? Restoration and the fall of Israel's oppressors answered decisively: YHWH remained faithful, proving His unique deity. This shaped post-exilic Judaism's fierce monotheism.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God use both discipline and deliverance to reveal His character?
2. What does recognizing God as 'the LORD their God' (possessive) imply about covenant relationship?
3. How should believers respond to seasons when God seems absent or unfaithful?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשֻׁבוּ And they shall dwell H3427	עָלֶיהָ H5921	לָךְ טָח safely H983	וּבָנוּ therein and shall build H1129	בָּתִּים houses H1004	וַיִּנְטְעוּ and plant H5193
כְּרָמֵי יַם vineyards H3754	וַיָּשֻׁבוּ And they shall dwell H3427	לָךְ טָח safely H983	בְּעֲשׂוֹתִי when I have executed H6213	שְׁפָטִים judgments H8201	
בְּכָל ל H3605	הַשָּׂאֲטִים upon all those that despise H7590	אֲתָם H853	מִסָּבִיבֹתָם them round about H5439		
וַיָּדְעוּ them and they shall know H3045	אֲנִי יְהוָה H3588	אֲנִי יְהוָה H589	יְהוָה הָאֵל that I am the LORD H3068	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם their God H430	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:24 (References God): And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 28:22 (Judgment): And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon; and I will be glorified in the midst of thee: and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her.

Jeremiah 32:15 (References God): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.

Ezekiel 38:8 (Parallel theme): After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

Proverbs 14:26 (References Lord): In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Isaiah 17:14 (Parallel theme): And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

Exodus 29:46 (References God): And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.

Zechariah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Deuteronomy 12:10 (References God): But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

Ezekiel 39:10 (References God): So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.