

Ezekiel 36:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Analysis

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land." This promise of regathering addresses both physical return from exile and spiritual gathering of the elect. The language emphasizes divine initiative: "I will take...I will gather...I will bring." God doesn't merely permit return but actively accomplishes it. Reformed theology sees this fulfilled in the church—God gathering elect from every nation into His spiritual kingdom. The physical return from Babylon foreshadows the greater spiritual gathering through the gospel.

Historical Context

This prophecy (587 BC) preceded Jerusalem's destruction by one year, offering hope before calamity. The initial fulfillment came through Cyrus's decree (539 BC) allowing Jewish return. However, most remained scattered, and even returnees faced hardship. Modern debates involve whether 1948's Israeli statehood fulfills this, or whether it awaits millennial fulfillment. Reformed amillennialism typically sees spiritual fulfillment in the church, while premillennialism anticipates literal fulfillment. Both recognize God's sovereignty in accomplishing promised gathering.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's active gathering encourage believers to trust His sovereign purposes?
2. What is the relationship between physical restoration promises and spiritual elect gathering?

Interlinear Text

וְלִקְחֹתִי אֶתְכֶם מִן הַגּוֹיִם וְקִבַּצְתִּי אֶתְכֶם
For I will take H3947 H853 you from among H4480 the heathen H1471 and gather H6908 H853
מֵכָל הָאֲרָצוֹת וְהֵבֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם אֶל
H3605 you out of all countries H776 and will bring H935 H853 H413
אֶדְמַתְכֶם:
you into your own land H127

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 37:21 (Parallel theme): And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Ezekiel 34:13 (Parallel theme): 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.

Ezekiel 11:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 30:3 (Parallel theme): For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

Jeremiah 30:18 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

Jeremiah 31:8 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

Jeremiah 32:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Ezekiel 37:25 (Parallel theme): And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Hosea 1:11 (Parallel theme): Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.