

Ezekiel 36:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD;
Because they have made you desolate, and swallowed you up
on every side, that ye might be a possession unto the residue
of the heathen, and ye are taken up in the lips of talkers, and
are an infamy of the people:

Analysis

This verse points toward God's gracious purposes of restoration despite Israel's persistent unfaithfulness. The Reformed emphasis on sovereign grace shines through—restoration doesn't depend on Israel's merit or ability but on God's covenant faithfulness and irrevocable purposes (Romans 11:29). This anticipates new covenant promises where God gives a new heart and His Spirit to enable obedience (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The pattern of judgment followed by grace-based restoration prefigures the gospel: humanity deserves condemnation but receives mercy through Christ's atoning work. God's restoration demonstrates His glory by showing grace triumphs over judgment.

Historical Context

This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend

beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

Interlinear Text

לִכְן H3651	הִנְבִּי א H5012	אָמַר H559	כֹּה H3541	אָמַר H559	אֲדֹנָי H136	יְהוָה H3069
	Therefore prophesy	Thus saith		Thus saith	the Lord	GOD
בְּיָמָיו H3282	בְּיָמָיו H3282	שְׁמוֹת H8074	וְשָׂאָהּ H7602	אֶתְּךָ H853		
	Because they have made you desolate		and swallowed you up			
מִכָּסֶּבֶת יב H5439	לְהִיוֹתְךָ H1961	מִוִּשְׁעָה H4181	לְשֹׁאֵר ית H7611			
on every side		that ye might be a possession	unto the residue			
הַגּוֹיִם H1471	וְנִתְּעַל ו H5927	עַל H5921	שִׁפְּתַי H8193	לְשׁוֹן H3956	וְדִבַּת H1681	
of the heathen	and ye are taken up		in the lips	of talkers	and are an infamy	
עַם: H5971						
of the people						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 18:16 (Parallel theme): To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.