

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

לְכָיְנָה אֶת־הַבְּבָבָא	אָמַר כִּי־אָמַר	אָמַר אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים
H3651 Therefore prophesy	H5012	H3541 Thus saith
	H559	H559 Thus saith
	H136 the Lord	H3069 GOD
בְּכִי־עַל־יְעַל	שְׁמֹות	וְשָׁאַף אֶת־
H3282 Because they have made you desolate	H8074	H7602 and swallowed you up
		H853
לְהַיּוֹתָךְ מִשְׁבֵּב יָבָב	מִזְרָחָה	לְשָׁאָר יִתְהַגֵּד
on every side	H1961	that ye might be a possession
H5439	H4181	H7611 unto the residue
וְתַּתְּגַּדְלֵי הַגּוֹן מִדְבָּת	לְשׁוֹן שְׁפָתָן	וְתַּדְבִּרְתָּן
of the heathen and ye are taken up	H5921	H8193 in the lips
H1471	H3956	H1681 of talkers
וְתַּדְבִּרְתָּן	וְתַּדְבִּרְתָּן	וְתַּדְבִּרְתָּן
of the people		
H5971		

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.
