

Ezekiel 36:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

Analysis

The result of restoration: 'And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.' The comparison to 'the garden of Eden' depicts complete restoration and blessing—paradise regained. What was destroyed by judgment becomes more glorious than before. The threefold description 'waste and desolate and ruined' emphasizes total devastation; the transformation to 'fenced, and are inhabited' shows complete reversal. This prophecy had initial fulfillment in the return from exile and Jerusalem's rebuilding, but awaits ultimate fulfillment in the new creation (Revelation 21-22) when God makes all things new. The Eden imagery connects restoration to creation purposes—God recovers His original design for human flourishing in His presence.

Historical Context

The land's desolation resulted from covenant curses (Leviticus 26:27-35, Deuteronomy 28:49-52). Babylonian destruction in 586 BC left Jerusalem and Judah devastated. The exile lasted approximately 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11), during which the land lay largely uninhabited, fulfilling sabbath rest (2 Chronicles 36:21). The return under Zerubbabel (538 BC), Ezra (458 BC), and Nehemiah (445 BC) brought gradual restoration—temple rebuilt, walls reconstructed, cities repopulated. Yet this restoration fell short of Ezekiel's glorious vision, awaiting eschatological fulfillment. The New Testament interprets Eden restoration

christologically and eschatologically—Christ reverses the curse (Galatians 3:13), and the new creation will feature paradise restored (Revelation 22:1-5).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of Eden-like restoration fuel hope during present struggles and spiritual desolation?
2. What does this passage teach about God's determination to restore and exceed what sin and judgment destroyed?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	הָאָרֶץ	זֶה	וְהַנֶּשֶׁם וְהַיָּבֵשׁ	הַיָּבֵשׁ
And they shall say	land	This	and desolate	H1961
H559	H776	H1977	H8074	
כִּגְן	עֵדֶן	וְהָעָרִים	וְהַחֲרָב וְהַיָּבֵשׁ	וְהַיָּבֵשׁ
is become like the garden	of Eden	cities	and the waste	and desolate
H1588	H5731	H5892	H2720	H8074
וְהַנֶּהָרִים	בְּצֹר וְהָעָרִים	יִשְׁבּוּ:		
and ruined	are become fenced	and are inhabited		
H2040	H1219	H3427		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:3 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like

the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Jeremiah 33:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Joel 2:3 (Parallel theme): A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

Psalms 58:11 (Parallel theme): So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.