

Ezekiel 36:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

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

אָמַר כִּי	זֶה אָתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	אָמַר יְהוָה	אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
H3541 Thus saith	the Lord	GOD	H5750	H2063 I will yet for this be enquired
H559	H136	H3069		H1875
לְבִתְּהַנְּתָרָה	לְבִתְּהַנְּתָרָה	לְבִתְּהַנְּתָרָה	לְבִתְּהַנְּתָרָה	לְבִתְּהַנְּתָרָה
of by the house	of Israel	to do	H0	it for them I will increase
H1004	H3478	H6213		H853
אָדָם כְּאָדָם	אָדָם כְּאָדָם	אָדָם כְּאָדָם	אָדָם כְּאָדָם	אָדָם כְּאָדָם
like a flock	them with men			
H6629	H120			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 14:3 (Parallel theme): Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

1 John 5:14 (Parallel theme): And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Zechariah 10:9 (Parallel theme): And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

Zechariah 10:6 (References God): And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

Ezekiel 20:3 (References God): Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalms 102:17 (Parallel theme): He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

Psalms 10:17 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Ezekiel 20:31 (References God): For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Philippians 4:6 (References God): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.