

Ezekiel 37:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

"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." God promises comprehensive regathering from worldwide dispersion. The threefold action—take, gather, bring—emphasizes divine initiative and thoroughness. This prophecy has partial historical fulfillment (return from Babylon), ongoing fulfillment (conversion of Jews to Christ), and future fulfillment (debated between millennial and spiritual interpretations). The key is God's sovereignty: He gathers whom He wills, when He wills, accomplishing His purposes.

Historical Context

The exile scattered Judah throughout Mesopotamia and beyond (587 BC). God promises reversal: comprehensive regathering surpassing the Babylonian return. The phrase "on every side" indicates universal scope. The modern return to Israel (1948) raises eschatological questions, though Reformed theology typically emphasizes spiritual fulfillment in Christ's gathering elect from all nations. The New Testament expands "Israel" to include believing Gentiles (Galatians 6:16), suggesting the promise finds ultimate expression in the church—God's people gathered from every nation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to gather from all nations comfort believers in hostile environments?
2. What is the relationship between ethnic Israel's restoration and the church as spiritual Israel?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּדְבֹר	כֹּה	אֶמַר	אֲדַבֵּר י	יְהוָה	הֵנָּה י	אֲנִי י
And say		unto them Thus saith	the Lord	GOD		
H1696	H413 H3541	H559	H136	H3069	H2009	H589
לִקְחֹם	אֶת	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִבֵּין	הַגּוֹיִם	
Behold I will take		the children	of Israel	from among	the heathen	
H3947	H853	H1121	H3478	H996	H1471	
אֶשָּׂר	הֲלָכּוּ	שָׁם	וְקִבַּצְתִּי י	אֹתָם	מִסָּבִיב י	
	whither they be gone		and will gather		them on every side	
H834	H1980	H8033	H6908	H853	H5439	
וְהֵבֵאתִי י	אֶל	אֲדָמָתָם:				
and bring		them into their own land				
H935	H853 H413	H127				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:24 (Parallel theme): For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Jeremiah 29:14 (References Lord): And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Jeremiah 23:8 (References Lord): But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

Jeremiah 16:15 (References Lord): But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

Isaiah 49:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

Jeremiah 30:3 (References Lord): 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 50:19 (References Israel): And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

Jeremiah 23:3 (Parallel theme): And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

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 34:13 (References Israel): 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.