

Ezekiel 38:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

Analysis

This prophetic word demonstrates God's sovereign control over history and nations. Even pagan empires and hostile coalitions serve God's purposes while remaining morally accountable for their actions. This Reformed understanding of providence affirms that nothing occurs outside God's decree, yet human agents bear full responsibility for their choices. The prophecy serves pastoral purposes: assuring God's people of His protection, warning enemies of certain judgment, and demonstrating that history moves toward God's appointed end. These prophecies find layered fulfillment—immediate historical, ongoing spiritual, and ultimate eschatological.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וְאַתָּה תֹּאמַר	אֶעֱלֶה	עַל	אֶרֶץ	כְּרִזִּים	אֲבֹא
And thou shalt say	I will go up	H5921	to the land	of unwall'd villages	I will go
H559	H5927		H776	H6519	H935
הַשֹּׁקֵטִים	יְשֻׁבִים	לָבֶטֶחַ	כָּל	יְשֻׁבִים	
to them that are at rest	all of them dwelling	safely	H3605	all of them dwelling	
H8252	H3427	H983		H3427	
בְּאֵין	חֹמֶה	וְבִין	וְדֹלֶת	אֵין	לָהֶם
H369	without walls	and having neither bars	nor gates	H369	H0
	H2346	H1280	H1817		

