

Ezekiel 38:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

הַשְׁנִים יְמִים בְּאַחֲרֵי יְמִים יְמִים יְמִים

days After many thou shalt be visited in the latter years

H3117 H7227 H6485 H319 H8141

מִתְּרָב וְאַל מִשׁׁוּב בַּת מִתְּרָב וְאַל
 thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword

H935 H413 H776 H7725 H2719

בְּכָל מִקְנָה צַח בְּכָל מִקְנָה צַח

and is gathered out of the nations After many against the mountains

H6908 H5971 H7227 H5921 H2022

וְהִיא תִּמְדַּיְתְּ לְפָרָב הַפִּי וְאַשְׁר יִשְׁבָּא ל
 of Israel H834 H1961 waste which have been always H1931

H3478 H2723 H8548

כָּלָם: לְבָטָח וַיֵּשֶׁב וְאַהֲרֹן מִעֵדָם יְמִים
out of the nations but it is brought forth and they shall dwell safely

H5971 H3318 H3427 H983 H3605

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 24:22 (Parallel theme): And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Ezekiel 38:16 (References Israel): And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Jeremiah 23:6 (References Israel): In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org