

Ezekiel 39:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

Analysis

So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward—the Hebrew verb *yada'* (יָדָע, "know") signifies experiential, covenantal knowledge, not mere intellectual acknowledgment. This is the same "knowing" used of marriage intimacy (Genesis 4:1), indicating restored relationship, not just information.

The phrase **"from that day and forward"** (מִן־הַיּוֹם הַהוּא וְלִלְאָה) marks a decisive turning point in Israel's history—a permanent transformation, not temporary revival. The repetitive pattern of apostasy-judgment-repentance-restoration that characterized Israel's past will finally end. This echoes the New Covenant promise: "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts...they shall all know me" (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

The emphatic **"I am the LORD their God"** (אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם) reaffirms the covenant formula repeated throughout Scripture. God's self-disclosure through mighty acts produces the knowledge that establishes covenant relationship. This verse anticipates the ultimate fulfillment in Christ, through whom we truly know God (John 17:3) and are kept by His power (1 Peter 1:5).

Historical Context

Israel's history was marked by cycles of forgetting God—during prosperity (Judges 2:10-12), through intermarriage (Ezra 9:1-2), and via syncretistic worship

(Jeremiah 44:15-19). The exile was God's severe mercy to break this pattern. Ezekiel's prophecy promises that after the eschatological vindication of God's glory, Israel's knowledge of Yahweh would be permanent and experiential.

This promise addresses the core problem: Israel had known about God intellectually but failed to know Him relationally and covenantally. The New Covenant would resolve this through Spirit-empowered internal transformation (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The early church understood this fulfilled in Christ, who enables believers to know God truly and remain faithful through regeneration and indwelling Spirit.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Do you know about God intellectually, or do you know Him experientially and covenantally?
2. What would it mean practically for your knowledge of God to be permanent and transformative 'from this day forward'?

Interlinear Text

יָדְעוּ	בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם
shall know	So the house	of Israel	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD	their God
H3045	H1004	H3478			H3068	H430
מִן	הַיּוֹם	וְהָיָא	וְקִדְמָה:			
H4480	from that day	H1931	and forward			
	H3117		H1973			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 24:7 (References God): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:34 (References Lord): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 39:28 (References God): Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

Ezekiel 39:7 (References Lord): So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Ezekiel 34:30 (References God): Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 28:26 (References God): And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

