

Ezekiel 39:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

Analysis

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob—the Hebrew idiom *shuv et-shevut* (שׁוּב אֶת־שְׁבוּת, "bring again the captivity") means "restore the fortunes" or "reverse the exile." The use of "Jacob" alongside "house of Israel" emphasizes continuity with patriarchal promises—this is the same covenant community chosen in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

And have mercy upon the whole house of Israel—*racham* (רָחַם, "have mercy") derives from the word for "womb," suggesting deep, tender, maternal compassion. Critically, God's mercy follows judgment and is directed toward **"the whole house of Israel"**—both northern and southern kingdoms will be reunited, fulfilling prophecies of restoration (Ezekiel 37:15-28).

And will be jealous for my holy name—*qana* (קָנָה, "jealous") expresses God's zealous commitment to His honor and reputation. Israel's exile had profaned God's name among the nations (36:20-21); restoration vindicates His character. God's jealousy isn't petty ego but passionate commitment to truth—His name represents His nature, and misrepresentation of His character demands correction. Restoration serves both Israel's good and God's glory, inseparably linked.

Historical Context

By 570 BC, the exiles had been in Babylon for decades. Jerusalem lay in ruins, the temple destroyed, sacrifices ceased, and the Davidic monarchy ended. Hope seemed extinct. Into this despair, Ezekiel prophesies guaranteed restoration based not on Israel's merit but on God's commitment to His own reputation and covenant promises.

The phrase "jealous for my holy name" recalls God's self-description at Sinai: "the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). His jealousy ensures He will not allow His character to be permanently misrepresented. When nations concluded Israel's exile proved Yahweh's weakness, God's honor demanded vindication through miraculous restoration. This gives believers confidence: God's commitment to His glory guarantees the fulfillment of His promises.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that God's restoration serves His glory as much as your good affect your view of redemption?
2. In what ways might God be 'jealous for His holy name' in circumstances where His character is being misrepresented through your life?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה לֵךְ	אָמַר	יְהוָה ה'	אֲדָנִי י	עַתָּה ה'	
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the Lord	H3068	H6258
	H559		H136		
אָשִׁיב	אֶת	שְׁבִי יִת	יַעֲקֹב ב	וְרַחֲמֵי י	כָּל
Now will I bring again	H853	the captivity	of Jacob	and have mercy	H3605
H7725		H7622	H3290	H7355	
בְּ יִת	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וְקִנְאֵת י	לִשְׁמִי	קִדְשִׁי:	
upon the whole house	of Israel	and will be jealous	name	for my holy	
H1004	H3478	H7065	H8034	H6944	

Additional Cross-References

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.

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.

Ezekiel 20:40 (Holy): For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

Hosea 1:11 (References Israel): Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Isaiah 56:8 (References God): The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

Jeremiah 30:18 (Grace): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

Jeremiah 30:10 (References Lord): Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Jeremiah 33:7 (References Israel): And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

Jeremiah 31:1 (References God): At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.