

Ezekiel 39:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God—this repeated formula (verses 22, 28) frames the section, emphasizing restoration's primary purpose: experiential knowledge of Yahweh's covenant faithfulness. The causal particle **"which caused them to be led into captivity"** acknowledges God's sovereign role in judgment—exile wasn't Babylonian initiative but divine decree.

But I have gathered them unto their own land—the adversative *ve* (וְ, "but") contrasts scattering and gathering, both divine acts. God who scattered in judgment gathers in mercy, demonstrating His control over all history. **"Their own land"** (*admatam*, אֲדָמָתָם) references covenant promises to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21)—the land belongs to Israel by divine grant, not conquest or occupation.

And have left none of them any more there—this totality exceeds historical fulfillment. Even after the 538 BC return, most Jews remained in diaspora. Ezekiel envisions complete, permanent restoration with no remnant left behind. This hyperbolic language points to eschatological consummation when God's people will be fully gathered in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:3-4), never again scattered, exiled, or separated from God's presence.

Historical Context

The post-exilic return was partial and voluntary. Many Jews prospered in Babylon/Persia and chose not to return (see Esther's setting). The community that rebuilt Jerusalem was small, vulnerable, and never regained full sovereignty until modern times. Ezekiel's vision of complete gathering thus remained unfulfilled historically, pointing forward to Messianic redemption.

Christian theology sees this gathering fulfilled spiritually in the church (James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1 address believers as "scattered") and eschatologically in the New Creation. God's promise that none remain scattered finds ultimate fulfillment when "he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds" (Matthew 24:31).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God both scattered in judgment and gathers in mercy deepen your understanding of His sovereignty?
2. What does it mean for you personally that God promises to leave none of His people scattered and forgotten?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּדְעוּ	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	
Then shall they know	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD	
H3045			their God	
		H3068	H430	
בְּהַגְלוֹתִי		אֹתָם	אֶל	
which caused them to be led into captivity		H853	H413	
H1540			among the heathen	
			H1471	
וְכִנֵּסְתִּי יָם	עַל	אֶדְמַתָּם	וְלֹא	אוֹתִי יִרְעוּ
but I have gathered	H5921	them unto their own land	H3808	and have left
H3664		H127		H5750
			H3498	
שָׁמָּה	יְהוָה			
H1992	H8033			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 39:22 (References God): So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

Isaiah 27:12 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

Amos 9:9 (Parallel theme): For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

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.