

Isaiah 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Analysis

God will raise an 'ensign' (banner/standard) for the nations, gathering dispersed Israel and Judah from earth's four corners. The banner represents Christ lifted up (John 3:14; 12:32), around whom all nations rally. Gathering from 'four corners' indicates comprehensive, worldwide collection. Both northern kingdom (Israel) and southern kingdom (Judah) are reunited—healing ancient division. This describes both political reunion and spiritual unity in Christ, where all believers become one.

Historical Context

Politically, northern and southern kingdoms were divided since 930 BC and never fully reunited. Spiritually fulfilled in Christ, who breaks down dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), uniting all believers. The 'ensign for the nations' is the cross, to which God draws all peoples. The church fulfills this as one body despite ethnic, national, and historical divisions. Perfect unity awaits new creation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ crucified serve as the ensign/banner that gathers God's people?
2. What ancient divisions does Christ heal in His church today?
3. How can we promote the unity Christ died to achieve among His dispersed people?

Interlinear Text

וְעָשֵׂה תָּבִא לְגַוְּן כִּי אַתָּה נְדָבָן
And he shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcasts
H5375 H5251 H1471 H622 H1760

כָּתֵף וְתַחַת מִשְׁרָאֵל יְמִינָה יְמִינָה אֶלְעֶבֶד וְמִרְאֵב עַד
of Israel the dispersed of Judah and gather together from the four corners
H3478 H5310 H3063 H6908 H702 H3671

בָּאָרֶץ
of the earth
H776

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 3:10 (Parallel theme): From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

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

Isaiah 11:10 (Parallel theme): And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 43:6 (Parallel theme): I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

Psalms 147:2 (References Israel): The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

Zechariah 10:6 (Parallel theme): And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

Isaiah 27:13 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Psalms 68:22 (Parallel theme): The Lord said, I will bring again from Bashan, I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea:

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