

Isaiah 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

Analysis

The nations ('people') will help Israel return to their land, and Israel will possess them as servants. This reversal—former captors becoming servants—demonstrates poetic justice. The oppressed become rulers; those who ruled now serve. This pictures both political restoration and spiritual reality. In Christ's kingdom, Gentiles willingly serve Jewish Messiah, and all believers rule with Christ. The reversal of fortunes demonstrates God's justice and sovereignty over historical reversals.

Historical Context

Partially fulfilled when Cyrus's Persia facilitated Jewish return to Judah (Ezra 1). Persians provided resources for temple rebuilding. Some Gentiles (like Cyrus) served God's purposes for Israel. Spiritually fulfilled when Gentile believers submitted to Jewish apostles and worshiped Israel's God through Jesus. The principle continues—God reverses injustices and elevates the humble while humbling the proud.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does reversal of oppressor/oppressed roles demonstrate God's justice?
2. What does willing Gentile service to God's purposes reveal about gospel transformation?
3. How do we see this pattern of divine reversals throughout Scripture and history?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| וְלָקַח וּם | עַמִּים | וְהָבִיא וּם | אֶל | מְקוֹמָם | |
| shall take | And the people | them and bring | H413 | them to their place | |
| H3947 | H5971 | H935 | | H4725 | |
| וְהִתְנַחֵל וּם | בֵּית | יִשְׂרָאֵל ל | עַל | אֲדָמָת | יְהוָה |
| shall possess | and the house | of Israel | H5921 | them in the land | of the LORD |
| H5157 | H1004 | H3478 | | H127 | H3068 |
| לְעֲבָדֵי יִם | וְלַשְׁפָּחֹת וְ | וְהֵיוּ | לְשִׁבְיָהֵם | | |
| for servants | and handmaids | H1961 | and they shall take them captives | | |
| H5650 | H8198 | | H7617 | | |
| לְשִׁבְיָהֵם | וְהָיוּ וְ | וְהֵיוּ | בְּגִישֵׁיהֶם: | | |
| and they shall take them captives | they were and they shall rule | over their oppressors | | | |
| H7617 | H7287 | | H5065 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 61:5 (Parallel theme): And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

Isaiah 60:14 (References Lord): The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Jeremiah 30:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

Isaiah 49:23 (References Lord): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Daniel 7:18 (Parallel theme): But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.