

Isaiah 33:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.

Analysis

Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities (חֲזֵה צִיּוֹן קְרִיַּת מוֹעֲדֶינוּ, chazeh Tsiyon qiryat mo'adenu)—behold (חֲזֵה, chazah) Zion, city of our מוֹעֵד (mo'ed, appointed feasts, assemblies). **Thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation** (עֵינֶיךָ יֵרֶאֱיֶה יְרוּשָׁלַיִם נָוֶה, eynekha tire'edah Yerushalaim naveh sha'anan)—Jerusalem as a נָוֶה (naveh, habitation, dwelling) that is שָׁאַנָן (sha'anan, quiet, tranquil, secure). **A tabernacle that shall not be taken down... not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken** (אֹהֶל בַּל־יִצֵּעַן בַּל־יִסָּע יִתְדוֹתָיו לֹנֶצַח וְכָל־חֻבְלָיו בַּל־יִנָּתְקוּ, ohel bal-yits'an bal-yissa yetedotav lanetsach vekhol-chavalayv bal-yinatequ).

Zion, city of pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles), will be permanently secure—a tent (אֹהֶל, ohel) that's never taken down, stakes (יִתְד, yated) never removed, cords (חֻבָּל, chevel) never broken. The tent imagery evokes Tabernacle—God's movable dwelling—but promises permanence. Hebrews 12:22-24 says believers 'are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.' Revelation 21:2-3: 'I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God... the tabernacle of God is with men.'

Historical Context

Jerusalem's three annual pilgrimage festivals (Deuteronomy 16:16) made it 'city of appointed times.' Assyrian siege threatened to end this—no festivals under occupation. God's deliverance preserved worship. The tent metaphor contrasts nomadic insecurity with permanent dwelling. Tabernacle was portable; Temple was permanent but destroyed (586 BC). Ultimate fulfillment: eternal city where God dwells with humanity (Revelation 21:3), never again disrupted.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jerusalem as 'city of our appointed feasts' picture the church as gathering place for worship?
2. What does the permanent tent metaphor teach about security in God's presence—no more displacement or exile?
3. How do you experience Zion's stability now as citizen of heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22-24)?

Interlinear Text

תִּרְאֵהָ יְנָה	עֵינֶיהָ	מִזְמֹדֵנוּ	קִרְיָתָהּ	צִיּוֹן	חֲזֵה
shall see	thine eyes	of our solemnities	the city	upon Zion	Look
H7200	H5869	H4150	H7151	H6726	H2372
יִצְעַן	בֶּל	אֵלֶּהָ	שָׁמָּה	בֵּיתָהּ	יְרוּשָׁלַם
that shall not be taken down	H1077	a tabernacle	a quiet	habitation	Jerusalem
H6813		H168	H7600	H5116	H3389
וְכָל	לֹא	יִתְדֹתֶיהָ	יִסָּע	בֶּל	
H3605		thereof shall ever	not one of the stakes	be removed	H1077
	H5331		H3489	H5265	
יִנָּתְקוּ:	בֶּל	חֲבֵלֶיהָ	יִ		
thereof be broken	H1077	neither shall any of the cords			
H5423		H2256			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 46:5 (Parallel theme): God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Isaiah 32:18 (Parallel theme): And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isaiah 54:2 (Parallel theme): Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;