

Isaiah 51:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Analysis

The promise to 'make her wilderness like Eden' depicts comprehensive restoration reversing judgment. Eden imagery connects creation and new creation - God's redemptive work restores pre-fall paradise. The progression from wilderness/desert to garden shows grace's transforming power. The 'joy and gladness, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody' describe worship arising from experienced redemption, anticipating Revelation 21's new creation.

Historical Context

Babylon's fall and Israel's return began fulfilling this, but complete fulfillment awaits Christ's return. The wilderness-to-Eden transformation applies personally (regeneration), corporately (church growth), and cosmically (new heavens and earth).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual 'wildernesses' in your life has God transformed into garden-like abundance?
2. How does the promise of new creation (wilderness becoming Eden) give hope for present struggles?

Interlinear Text

כִּי H3588	נַחֵם H5162	יְהוָה H3068	צִיּוֹן H6726	נַחֵם H5162	כָּל H3605
	he will comfort	For the LORD	Zion	he will comfort	
חֲרֵבֹתַי יְהוָה H2723	וַיַּשֵּׁם H7760	מִדְבָּרָהּ H4057	כַּעֲדֵן H5731	וְעֲרֵבֹתַי יְהוָה H6160	
all her waste places	and he will make	her wilderness	like Eden	and her desert	
כִּגְן H1588	יְהוָה H3068	שִׂשׁוֹן H8342	וְשִׂמְחָהּ H8057	יִמָּצָא H4672	בָּהּ H0
like the garden	For the LORD	joy	and gladness	shall be found	
תוֹךָ הַ H8426	וּקוֹל H6963	זִמְרָה: H2172			
therein thanksgiving	and the voice	of melody			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:13 (References Lord): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Isaiah 52:9 (References Lord): Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

Joel 2:3 (Parallel theme): A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

Jeremiah 31:25 (Parallel theme): For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.

Genesis 13:10 (References Lord): And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

1 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org