

Isaiah 52:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

Analysis

The command 'Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem' calls ruins to celebrate coming restoration. The reason: 'the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.' This linkage of comfort and redemption shows that true consolation comes only through salvation. The personification of ruins singing depicts comprehensive transformation - even inanimate creation rejoices at redemption.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's ruins did eventually see rebuilding under Nehemiah, but complete fulfillment awaits new Jerusalem descending from heaven (Revelation 21:2). The 'waste places' singing anticipates Romans 8:21 - creation's liberation from bondage at Christ's return.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'waste places' (ruined areas) in your life are being restored by God's redemptive work?
2. How does the promise that even ruins will 'sing together' demonstrate the comprehensiveness of salvation?

Interlinear Text

פָּצַח ו	בְּנֵנוּ	יִחַדּוּ	חֲרָב וְ	יְרוּשָׁלַם:	כִּי
Break forth into joy	sing	together	ye waste places	Jerusalem	H3588
H6476	H7442	H3162	H2723	H3389	
נֶחַם	יְהוָה	עִמּוֹ	נָא ל	יְרוּשָׁלַם:	
hath comforted	for the LORD	his people	he hath redeemed	Jerusalem	
H5162	H3068	H5971	H1350	H3389	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:3 (References Lord): 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.

Psalms 98:4 (Sin): Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Isaiah 61:4 (Parallel theme): And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Isaiah 14:7 (Sin): The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

Isaiah 48:20 (Redemption): Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

Isaiah 44:26 (References Jerusalem): That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

Isaiah 55:12 (Sin): For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 44:23 (Redemption): Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

Isaiah 49:13 (Sin): 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.

Galatians 4:27 (Parallel theme): For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.