

Jeremiah 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

Analysis

This verse promises post-judgment mercy: 'And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them.' The Hebrew shuv (שׁוּב, return) and racham (רָחַם, have compassion) promise divine restoration after judgment. 'And will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.' Return to nachalah (heritage) and erets (land) reverses exile's dispossession. The promise applies even to the 'evil neighbours'—if they repent, they too may be restored. Divine judgment aims at restoration, not annihilation.

Historical Context

Post-exilic restoration fulfilled this promise for Judah. Surrounding nations also experienced various degrees of restoration, though none returned to pre-conquest power. The verse demonstrates that exile wasn't permanent—seventy years, then return (29:10). Even for pagan nations, judgment wasn't final if they turned to YHWH (v. 16). This anticipates gentile inclusion in God's people.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does promise of compassion 'after' judgment maintain hope through the exile experience?
2. What does extending restoration possibility to 'evil neighbours' suggest about God's universal purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְכִי הִ	אַפְרִי	נִתְשַׁ	וְאַתָּה
H1961	And it shall come to pass after	that I have plucked them out	H853
	H310	H5428	
וְנִחְלַת וְ	וְאַיִשׁ	וְנִשְׁבַּת יִם	וְאַיִשׁ
I will return	and have compassion	I will return	and every man
H7725	H7355	H7725	H376
לְאָרֶצָוְן	וְאַיִשׁ	וְנִשְׁבַּת יִם	to his heritage
and every man	to his land		H5159
H376	H776		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 49:6 (Parallel theme): And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 48:47 (Parallel theme): Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.

Jeremiah 49:39 (Parallel theme): But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD.

Amos 9:14 (Parallel theme): And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant

vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

Deuteronomy 30:3 (Parallel theme): That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

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