

Jeremiah 24:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Analysis

In the vision of good and bad figs representing the exiles and those who remained in Jerusalem, God promises regarding the exiles: 'I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.' This anticipates the new covenant promise (31:33) of internal transformation. God will give them a heart capable of truly knowing Him—not mere intellectual knowledge but personal, relational, transformative knowledge.

The phrase 'heart to know me' emphasizes that genuine knowledge of God requires more than mental assent—it requires heart transformation. The natural heart is hard, rebellious, incapable of truly knowing God (Romans 8:7). God must perform spiritual heart surgery, removing the heart of stone and giving a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). Only then can we know God as He truly is and respond appropriately. This is regeneration, the new birth Jesus described as essential for entering God's kingdom (John 3:3).

The promise 'they shall return unto me with their whole heart' describes genuine repentance that engages the whole person. Not merely outward conformity but wholehearted devotion. The exile would break Israel's divided loyalties and produce a remnant who truly sought God. This demonstrates God's redemptive purpose even in judgment—discipline intended to cure, not merely punish.

Historical Context

This vision came after the 597 BC exile when Jehoiachin and the elite were taken to Babylon. Those remaining in Jerusalem under Zedekiah considered themselves the faithful remnant, while viewing the exiles as rejected. God reverses this judgment: the exiles are the 'good figs' who will be preserved and brought back, while those remaining will be destroyed as 'bad figs.' The exile would purge unfaithfulness and produce a returning remnant with transformed hearts.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God must 'give' us a heart to know Him—what does this reveal about human spiritual ability?
2. How is the 'heart to know God' different from mere intellectual knowledge about God?
3. In what ways did God use the exile as redemptive discipline to produce wholehearted devotion in the remnant?

Interlinear Text

אָנָּא אָנָּא כִּי אֶתְּנֶתֶתִי
And I will give them an heart to know

H5414 H0 H3820 H3045 H853 H3588 H589

אֲהֵה הִנֵּה וְאֶנְכִּי יְהִי הִנֵּה
me that I am the LORD and they shall be my people

H3068 H1961 H0 H5971 H595 H1961

בְּכָל אָלָי יְהִי לְאֱלֹהִים לְבָם
and I will be their God for they shall return

H0 H430 H1961 H3588 H7725 H413 H3605

לְבָם:
them an heart

H3820

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 8:10 (References God): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Jeremiah 30:22 (References God): And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 37:23 (References God): Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

Zechariah 8:8 (References God): And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Romans 6:17 (References God): But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

1 Samuel 7:3 (References God): And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

Ezekiel 37:27 (References God): My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Isaiah 51:16 (Parallel theme): And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

Jeremiah 3:10 (References Lord): And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 13:9 (References God): And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.