

Jeremiah 29:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

Analysis

God now reveals His specific timeline: seventy years. This precise number served multiple purposes. First, it dashed false hopes of immediate return—this would be a long exile, outlasting most of the current generation. Second, it provided genuine hope—the exile would not be permanent; God would keep His covenant promises. Third, it demonstrated God's sovereign control over history—He ordained both the duration of judgment and the timing of restoration.

The seventy years is calculated from either 605 BC (when Daniel and the first captives were taken) to 536 BC (Cyrus's decree allowing return), or from 586 BC (Jerusalem's destruction) to 516 BC (temple completion). Either way, God's word proved reliable. The promise 'I will visit you' uses the same Hebrew verb (paqad, פָּקַד) used earlier for judgment—but now in its gracious sense of attending to with favor, remembering, and acting on behalf of.

The phrase 'perform my good word toward you' emphasizes God's faithfulness to His promises. Despite judgment, God's ultimate purpose for His people is good. The exile was discipline, not abandonment; temporal judgment, not eternal rejection. This established hope for the remnant and demonstrated that God's redemptive purposes cannot be thwarted by human sin or earthly powers. Romans 8:28 echoes this truth—God works all things together for good for those who love Him.

Historical Context

The seventy years proved precisely accurate, vindicating Jeremiah's prophecy. Daniel, studying Jeremiah's prophecy in Babylon, recognized when the time was fulfilled and interceded for its accomplishment (Daniel 9:2). Cyrus issued his decree in 538 BC, and exiles began returning. This historical fulfillment established Jeremiah's reliability and demonstrated God's sovereign control over empires—Babylon rose and fell exactly according to His timeline.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God has specific times and purposes for seasons of suffering provide hope during difficult periods?
2. What does it mean that God will 'perform His good word'—how does this assure us of His faithfulness despite present circumstances?
3. How should we respond when God's timeline differs dramatically from our desired timeline—when deliverance takes seventy years instead of two?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	כִּי	לְפִי	מָלְאֵת
H3588	H3541	For thus saith	the LORD	H3588	That after	be accomplished
		H559	H3068		H6310	H4390
לְבָבְךָ לְ	שִׁבְעִים	שָׁנָה	אֶפְקֹד	אֶתְּךָ	וְהִקְמַתְּ	עֲלֵיכֶם
at Babylon	seventy	years	I will visit	H853	you and perform	H5921
H894	H7657	H8141	H6485		H6965	
אֶת	דְּבָרִי	הַטּוֹב	לְהָשִׁיב	אֶתְּךָ	אֶל	
H853	word	my good	toward you in causing you to return	H853	H413	
	H1697	H2896	H7725			
הַמָּקוֹם	זֶה:					
to this place	H2088					
H4725						

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 7:5 (Parallel theme): Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

Daniel 9:2 (Word): In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 27:22 (References Lord): They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place.

Jeremiah 25:12 (Sin): And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Zephaniah 2:7 (References Lord): And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

Jeremiah 27:7 (Parallel theme): And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

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