

Jeremiah 29:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Analysis

God promises He will 'be found' by those who seek Him—an assurance that genuine seeking will not be disappointed. The Hebrew construction emphasizes divine initiative even in being found—God makes Himself available to those who seek Him. This is not a distant deity playing hide-and-seek but a covenant God who desires relationship with His people and responds to their repentant seeking.

The promise to 'turn away your captivity' (shub shebut, שׁוּב שְׁבוּת) is a common Hebrew phrase meaning to restore fortunes or bring back from captivity. It appears throughout the prophets, always pointing to God's sovereign reversal of judgment. What God has done in discipline, He will undo in restoration. The exiles will be gathered 'from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you'—note again that God takes responsibility for the scattering, which gives assurance that He can accomplish the gathering.

The final promise, 'I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive,' completes the cycle—from land, through judgment, to restoration. Yet the ultimate fulfillment transcends geographical return to Palestine. In Christ, believers are brought from spiritual exile into the presence of

God. The final restoration will see the new Jerusalem descend from heaven, and God will dwell with His people eternally (Revelation 21:3).

Historical Context

This promise was fulfilled when Cyrus decreed that Jews could return to Judah (Ezra 1:1-4). Approximately 50,000 returned initially, though most Jews remained in dispersion. The fuller fulfillment came through Christ, who proclaimed 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand' (Mark 1:15), gathering a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. The final fulfillment awaits Christ's return when He gathers His elect from the four winds (Matthew 24:31).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God will 'be found' by those who seek Him—how does this balance divine sovereignty and human seeking?
2. How does the promise to restore from 'all nations' point forward to the multi-ethnic nature of the church?
3. In what ways have believers been 'brought back' from spiritual captivity through Christ, and what final restoration still awaits?

Interlinear Text

וְנִמְצֵא אֹתִי	לָכֶם	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה ה	וְהִשְׁבֹּתִי י	אֶת
And I will be found	H0	of you saith	the LORD	and I will bring you again	H853
H4672		H5002	H3068	H7725	
שְׁבִיתְךָ מ	וְקִבַּצְתִּי י	אֶתְכֶם	מִכָּל	הַגּוֹיִם מ	וּמִכָּל
your captivity	and I will gather	H853	H3605	you from all the nations	H3605
H7622	H6908			H1471	
הַ מָּקוֹם וּמ	אֶשֶׁר ר	הַדִּחֵיתִי	אֶתְכֶם מ	שֶׁ מ	
and from all the places	H834	whither I have driven	H853	H8033	
H4725		H5080			
נֹאֵם	יְהוָה ה	וְהִשְׁבֹּתִי י	אֶתְכֶם מ	אֶל	
of you saith	the LORD	and I will bring you again	H853	H413	
H5002	H3068	H7725			
הַ מָּקוֹם וּמ	אֶשֶׁר	הֵגַלִּיתִי			
and from all the places	H834	whence I caused you to be carried away captive			
H4725		H1540			
מִשָּׁם: אֶתְכֶם מ					
H853	H8033				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:3 (References Lord): For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References Lord): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Isaiah 45:19 (References Lord): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Psalms 126:1 (References Lord): When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Psalms 32:6 (Parallel theme): For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Psalms 46:1 (Parallel theme): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 126:4 (References Lord): Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

Jeremiah 30:10 (References Lord): Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Romans 10:20 (Parallel theme): But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

Deuteronomy 30:3 (References Lord): 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.