

Jeremiah 31:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Analysis

This verse paints a picture of comprehensive restoration and joy. The returned exiles will 'sing in the height of Zion'—worship on God's holy mountain. They will 'flow together' (nahar, נָהָר), a word suggesting streaming like a river, united movement toward God. The object of their gathering is 'the goodness of the LORD'—specifically His material provision: wheat, wine, oil, flocks, and herds. Their soul will be 'as a watered garden'—flourishing, productive, beautiful. 'They shall not sorrow any more at all' promises complete reversal of mourning.

This comprehensive blessing—spiritual (worship, joy) and material (abundant provision)—reflects the holistic nature of God's restoration. The prophets never separated spiritual and physical blessing; God's salvation encompasses the whole person and ultimately the whole creation. The phrase 'watered garden' recalls Eden and anticipates the new creation. What was lost in the fall will be restored through God's redemptive work.

For Christians, this finds initial fulfillment in the joy and provision of the church, the new covenant community. Yet it also points forward to the new heavens and new earth, where God's people will experience unending joy, complete provision, and the end of all sorrow (Revelation 21:4). The material blessings listed here

remind us that God's ultimate purpose includes the restoration of creation itself, not merely the salvation of disembodied souls (Romans 8:21).

Historical Context

The returned exiles did rebuild Jerusalem, reinstitute temple worship, and experience God's provision. Yet the restoration was partial—they remained under foreign domination (Persia, Greece, Rome), poverty characterized many, and sorrow was not eliminated. This partial fulfillment pointed forward to the complete fulfillment in Christ's kingdom, inaugurated at His first coming and consummated at His return.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of comprehensive restoration—both spiritual and material—shape our understanding of salvation and the new creation?
2. What does it mean that believers' souls will be 'as a watered garden'—what kind of flourishing does this describe?
3. In what ways do we experience these blessings now, and what aspects await final fulfillment when Christ returns?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹא	וְרַגְגָּה	בָּמָרְגָּם	צִיּוֹן	וְנִבְרָר
Therefore they shall come	and sing	in the height	of Zion	and shall flow together
H935	H7442	H4791	H6726	H5102
אֶל	תְּבוּ	הִנֵּה	עַל	עַל
H413	to the goodness	of the LORD	H5921	for wheat
H2898	H3068	H1715	H5921	and for wine
H3323	H5921	H1121	H6629	H1961
רִאשָׁת	עַל	בְּנֵי	צָא	וְכָלְקָרְבָּן
and for oil	and for the young	of the flock	and of the herd	
H5315	H1588	H7302	H1241	H3254
וְיַעֲשֵׂה	עַל	בְּנֵי	כִּי	נִפְשָׁת
and their soul	garden	shall be as a watered	H3808	any more
H1669	H5750		H3254	
לֹא	לֹא			
and they shall not sorrow				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:10 (References Lord): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 58:11 (References Lord): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Joel 3:18 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Isaiah 65:19 (Parallel theme): And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Isaiah 60:20 (References Lord): Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Ezekiel 17:23 (Good): In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 21:4 (Parallel theme): And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Psalms 130:4 (Parallel theme): But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.