

Jeremiah 31:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.

Analysis

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.

God announces a new prophetic oracle with the standard formula 'the days come, saith the LORD' (hineh yamim ba'im ne'um-YHWH), marking a future divine intervention. The central image is agricultural: **'I will sow'** (ezra, אָזַרַע) the land with both human and animal seed. This reverses the desolation of judgment when the land was stripped of inhabitants and livestock.

The verb zara (זָרַע, to sow/scatter seed) is covenant language. God promised Abraham his 'seed' (zera, זֶרַע) would be as numerous as stars (Genesis 15:5). After exile's devastation—when the population was decimated and herds destroyed—God promises to 'sow' His people back into the land, causing multiplication. Both 'house of Israel' (northern kingdom, exiled 722 BC) and 'house of Judah' (southern kingdom, exiled 586 BC) will be restored. This comprehensive regathering of all twelve tribes points to messianic fulfillment.

Paul uses seed imagery for resurrection and the church's growth (1 Corinthians 15:36-38, 2 Corinthians 9:10). Jesus's parable of the sower shows God scattering seed (the gospel) to produce abundant harvest (Matthew 13:1-23). The ultimate fulfillment is the New Creation, where God's people multiply eternally in the renewed earth (Revelation 21:3-4).

Historical Context

By Jeremiah's time, the northern kingdom (Israel) had been exiled for over a century by Assyria (722 BC), and Judah faced Babylonian exile (586 BC). The land would be depopulated, cities ruined, livestock slaughtered. This promise of 'sowing' addressed that devastation—God would repopulate the land with both people and animals. The post-exilic return saw partial fulfillment as Jews returned to Judea, but the northern tribes largely remained scattered. Full restoration of all twelve tribes awaits Christ's return (Matthew 19:28, Acts 3:21, Romans 11:25-26).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of God 'sowing' His people like seed demonstrate both His sovereignty and His covenant faithfulness?
2. What does the inclusion of both Israel and Judah teach about God's comprehensive plan of restoration for all His people?
3. In what ways does Jesus's parable of the sower illustrate the New Testament fulfillment of God 'sowing' His kingdom?

Interlinear Text

הֵן ה	יָמֵי ים	בָּא ים	נָאֵם	יְהוָה ה	וְזָרַעְתִּי י	אֶת
H2009	Behold the days	come	saith	the LORD	that I will sow	H853
	H3117	H935	H5002	H3068	H2232	
בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאֶת	בֵּית	יְהוּדָה	וְזָרַע	
and the house	of Israel	H853	and the house	of Judah	and with the seed	
H1004	H3478		H1004	H3063	H2233	
אֶת אִישׁ	וְזָרַע	בְּהֵמָה:				
of man	and with the seed	of beast				
H120	H2233	H929				

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Ezekiel 36:11 (References Lord): And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 36:9 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown:

Zechariah 10:9 (Parallel theme): And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.