

Jeremiah 31:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.

Analysis

The city shall be built to the LORD (תִּבְנֶה הָעִיר לַיהוָה)—Jerusalem's reconstruction is la-YHWH, 'belonging to the LORD,' marking it as holy space, not merely civic restoration. The Hebrew banah (built) contrasts with earlier 'plucked up and thrown down' (v. 40, echoing 1:10). Specific landmarks—**the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner**—delineate the northern boundary of the rebuilt city.

The Tower of Hananel stood at the northeast corner (Nehemiah 3:1, 12:39), while the Corner Gate marked the northwest (2 Kings 14:13). This precision serves multiple purposes: it grounds eschatological hope in recognizable geography, shows God's intimate knowledge of His city, and anticipates the detailed temple vision of Ezekiel 40-48. Zechariah 14:10-11 echoes this same boundary description for the Messianic Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Hananeel means 'God is gracious'—apt symbolism for a restoration prophecy. The Corner Gate area was breached by enemies (2 Chronicles 25:23, 26:9), so its restoration signifies complete security. Zerubbabel's post-exilic rebuilding (520-516 BC) partially fulfilled this, but Zechariah and Revelation point to ultimate fulfillment in the New Jerusalem.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God include such specific geographical detail in prophecy about future restoration?
2. What does it mean for a city to be 'built to the LORD' rather than merely rebuilt for human habitation?
3. How do these physical promises to Israel inform Christian hope in the 'city whose builder and maker is God' (Hebrews 11:10)?

Interlinear Text

הֵן הַ	יָמֵי	בָּאֵי יָמֵי	נֹאֵם	לַיהוָה	וְנִבְנְתָה הַ	הָעִיר
H2009	Behold the days	come	saith	the LORD	shall be built	that the city
	H3117	H935	H5002	H3068	H1129	H5892
לַיהוָה	מִמִּגְדָּל	הַחֲנָנִי	לְ	שַׁעַר	הַפִּנָּה:	
the LORD	from the tower	of Hananeel	unto the gate	of the corner		
H3068	H4026	H2606	H8179	H6438		

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 14:10 (Parallel theme): All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

2 Kings 14:13 (Parallel theme): And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

Jeremiah 30:18 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

Jeremiah 31:27 (References Lord): 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.

2 Chronicles 26:9 (Parallel theme): Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.

Isaiah 44:28 (Parallel theme): That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Jeremiah 23:5 (References Lord): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Daniel 9:25 (Parallel theme): Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.