

Jeremiah 31:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

Analysis

Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel—the double emphasis עוֹד אֶבְנֶיךָ וְנִבְנֶיתָ (od evnekh v'nivneit, 'again I will build you and you shall be built') combines divine action with resultant state. God as builder (cf. Psalm 127:1) reverses His role as demolisher (Jeremiah 1:10). The title **virgin of Israel** (בְּתוּלַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, betulat Yisrael) paradoxically addresses a nation whose spiritual adultery filled Jeremiah's earlier oracles (chapters 2-3). Grace restores virginity, a foreshadowing of Christ making His bride 'without spot or wrinkle' (Ephesians 5:27).

Thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances—the תַּפְּפִים (tuppim, tambourines) and מְחוֹל (mechol, circle dances) recall Miriam celebrating exodus (Exodus 15:20). Restoration means return to joy, not mere survival. God's salvation aims at dancing daughters, not merely breathing exiles.

Historical Context

Chapter 31, the 'Book of Consolation,' promises restoration after the 70 years' captivity (written circa 587 BC). The imagery reverses judgment oracles: where God demolished (1:10), He now builds; where harlotry defiled (chapter 3), virginity is restored. These prophecies found initial fulfillment in the post-exilic return (538 BC onward) but reach ultimate fulfillment in Christ's new covenant (31:31-34).

Jeremiah 31:13 (Parallel theme): Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

Amos 5:2 (References Israel): The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up.

Acts 15:16 (Parallel theme): After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Psalms 149:3 (Parallel theme): Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Luke 15:23 (Parallel theme): And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

Lamentations 2:13 (Parallel theme): What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?

2 Kings 19:21 (Parallel theme): This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.