

Jeremiah 32:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD.

Analysis

Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them (וְקָנוּ שְׂדוֹת בְּכֶסֶף וְכָתוּב בְּסֵפֶר וְחָתוּם)—meticulous legal detail mirrors Jeremiah's purchase transaction (vv. 9-12, 44). Hebrew *kathov basefer* (write in the deed) and *chatom* (seal) reflect ancient Near Eastern property law requiring written contracts, witness attestation, and sealed copies for legal validity. Normal jurisprudence requires stable society—impossible under occupation.

And take witnesses in the land of Benjamin (וְהָיָה עֵדִים)—geographical specificity follows: Benjamin's tribal territory (north of Jerusalem), Jerusalem's vicinity, Judah's cities (mountain, lowland/shephelah, Negev/south). This comprehensive enumeration covers all Judah's regions—no area remains excluded from restoration. **For I will cause their captivity to return** (כִּי־אָשִׁיב אֶת־שְׁבוֹתָם)—literally 'restore their restoration,' emphasizing complete reversal of exile.

Historical Context

The five geographical zones (Benjamin, Jerusalem, hill country, shephelah, Negev) represent Judah's entire territory, systematically devastated by Nebuchadnezzar's

three campaigns (605, 597, 586 BC). Nehemiah's reforms (445 BC) and economic revival demonstrate partial fulfillment; Ezra 2:1 and Nehemiah 7:6-73 list returnees by these same regions, showing God's promise precision.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why does God include mundane legal procedures (contracts, witnesses, seals) in prophecy about restoration?
2. How does comprehensive geographical coverage ('hill country, valley, south') demonstrate God's attention to all His people, not just prominent locations?
3. What does it mean that God promises to 'restore their restoration'—can restoration itself be restored?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיוּ שָׂדֵי כֶסֶף יִקְנוּ וְיִתְּנוּ בִּסְפָרָם וְיִתְּנוּ

fields

for money

Men shall buy

and subscribe

evidences

and seal

H7704

H3701

H7069

H3789

H5612

H2856

וְהָיוּ עֵדִים בְּאֶרֶץ בְּנֵימִן וּבְסָבִיבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם

them and take

witnesses

in the land

of Benjamin

and in the places about

H5749

H5707

H776

H1144

H5439

וּבְעָרֵי יְהוּדָה וּבְעָרֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם וּבְעָרֵי הַר

Jerusalem

and in the cities

of Judah

and in the cities

of the mountains

H3389

H5892

H3063

H5892

H2022

וּבְעָרֵי הַשְּׂפֵלָה וּבְעָרֵי הַנֶּגֶב כִּי אָשׁוּב יָבִיאוּ אֶת

and in the cities

of the valley

and in the cities

of the south

H3588

to return

H853

H5892

H8219

H5892

H5045

H7725

וְהָיוּ שְׂבוּתָם לִּי וְהָיוּ לִּי יְהוָה:

for I will cause their captivity

saith

the LORD

H7622

H5002

H3068

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:26 (References Lord): And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.

Jeremiah 33:26 (Parallel theme): Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Jeremiah 33:11 (References Lord): The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for

ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 33:7 (Parallel theme): And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

Jeremiah 32:10 (Witness): And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.

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