

Jeremiah 33:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.

Analysis

Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast— Repetition from verse 10 emphasizes the contrast: utter desolation versus abundant restoration. **Shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down** (תִּהְיֶה נְבֵה רָעִים מְרַבְּצִים צָאן) — The pastoral imagery depicts peace and security. Naveh (habitation, pasture) and marbitzim (causing to lie down) echo Psalm 23: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures.'

Shepherds represent both literal agricultural restoration and theological leadership. The Good Shepherd theme (Ezekiel 34, John 10) finds its fulfillment in Christ, who gathers scattered sheep into one flock under His care.

Historical Context

The Babylonian destruction devastated Judah's agricultural economy. Sheep, essential to ancient Israelite life (sacrifices, wool, food), represented wealth and normalcy. The image of shepherds peacefully tending flocks contrasts with war-ravaged, predator-infested wastelands. This promise of pastoral peace signals comprehensive security—economic, military, and spiritual restoration under the coming Great Shepherd.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the image of shepherds and flocks lying down represent not just economic restoration but spiritual peace under God's care?
2. In what ways does this Old Testament promise of pastoral rest anticipate Christ as the Good Shepherd?
3. What 'desolate places' in your life need the peace of shepherds causing flocks to lie down in safety?

Interlinear Text

בְּתוֹךְ וּמְלֵאָה כִּי אָמַר יְהֹוָה הָאֱלֹהִים אֲבָאוֹת
H3541 Thus saith the LORD of hosts H5750 H1961 Again in this place
H559 H3068 H6635 H4725

וְכֹל בָּהָר בְּהַר מְאֵין אֲלֵי מֵעַד אֲלֵי מִלְחָמָה
H2088 which is desolate H369 without man H5704 and without beast H3605
H2720 H120 H929

מִרְבָּצֶם רָעֵם נְבִיא הַיּוֹם
and in all the cities thereof shall be an habitation of shepherds to lie down
H5892 H5116 H7462 H7257

אֲלֹא
causing their flocks
H6629

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 65:10 (Parallel theme): And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.

Jeremiah 31:24 (Parallel theme): And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husbandmen, and they that go forth with flocks.

Jeremiah 51:62 (References Lord): Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

Jeremiah 36:29 (References Lord): And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?

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