

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 נֶבֶחַ רֹעִים מְרִבְצִים צֹאן, *tihyeh neveh ro'im marbitzim tzon*)—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

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|
| כֹּה | אָמַר | יְהוָה | צְבָאוֹת | עֹד | יְהוָה הַ | בְּמָקוֹם |
| H3541 | Thus saith | the LORD | of hosts | H5750 | H1961 | Again in this place |
| | H559 | H3068 | H6635 | | | H4725 |
| הַ | הַ | בְּ | מֵאִין | אֶדְ | וְעַד | וּבְכָל |
| H2088 | which is desolate | H369 | without man | H5704 | and without beast | H3605 |
| | H2720 | | H120 | | H929 | |
| עַל יוֹ | נָה | רְעֵ | מִרְבְּצֵ | | | |
| and in all the cities | thereof shall be an habitation | of shepherds | to lie down | | | |
| H5892 | H5116 | H7462 | H7257 | | | |
| צֹאן: | | | | | | |
| 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?