

Jeremiah 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

Analysis

I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return (וְיִשְׁבֶּתְיָהוּ וְיִשְׁבֶּתְיָהוּ אֶת-שְׁבּוֹת יְהוּדָה וְאֶת-שְׁבּוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל)—The idiom shuv shevut literally means 'turn the turning' or 'restore the restoration,' a Hebrew intensification meaning complete reversal of exile. Critically, God promises to restore both Judah (southern kingdom) and Israel (northern kingdom, exiled 150 years earlier by Assyria).

And will build them, as at the first (וְבָנֵיתִים כְּבָרָא שְׁתָה)—The building verb echoes God's call to Jeremiah: 'to build and to plant' (Jeremiah 1:10). 'As at the first' suggests restoration to Davidic-era unity and blessing, ultimately pointing to Messianic reunion of all twelve tribes.

Historical Context

Jeremiah prophesied to Judah, but included Israel (the ten northern tribes exiled by Assyria in 722 BC) in restoration promises. This radical inclusion shows God's faithfulness to the entire covenant people, not just the surviving remnant. The reunification theme continues through Ezekiel 37 (two sticks becoming one) and anticipates the one flock under one Shepherd (John 10:16).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to restore both Judah and Israel (despite Israel's longer exile) demonstrate His faithfulness to all His promises?
2. What does 'as at the first' mean for restoration—a return to past glory or something surpassing it through Christ?
3. How does this reunification of divided kingdoms speak to Christian unity across denominational and ethnic divisions?

Interlinear Text

אֵת וְשָׁבֵתִי	שָׁב וַתִּ	אֵת יְהוּדָה
to return	H853	And I will cause the captivity
H7725	H7622	of Judah
		H3063
שָׁב וַתִּ	וְבָנָת יִם	כְּבָרָא לְ
And I will cause the captivity	of Israel	and will build
H7622	H3478	H1129
		H7223
		them as at the first

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:26 (Parallel theme): And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Jeremiah 30:3 (References Israel): For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

Jeremiah 32:44 (Parallel theme): 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.

Jeremiah 29:14 (Parallel theme): And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Jeremiah 31:4 (References Israel): 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.

Psalms 85:1 (Parallel theme): LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Psalms 126:4 (Parallel theme): Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

Jeremiah 31:28 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 42:10 (Parallel theme): If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you.

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.