

Jeremiah 49:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD.

Analysis

But it shall come to pass in the latter days (וְהָיָה בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים, v'hayah b'acharit hayyamim)—The eschatological formula 'latter days' points beyond immediate judgment to future restoration. This phrase appears throughout prophetic literature for messianic/end-times contexts. For Elam specifically, it anticipates reversal of exile and return to blessing.

That I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD (אֲשִׁיב אֶת־שְׁבוּת עֵילָם, ashiv et-sh'vut Elam)—The idiom shuv sh'vut (restore fortunes/turn captivity) promises comprehensive restoration: political, economic, spiritual. Remarkably, pagan Elam receives the same restoration promise given to Israel (29:14, 30:3) and other nations (48:47, 49:6). This demonstrates God's redemptive purpose extends beyond Israel to encompass all peoples. Acts 2:9's Elamites at Pentecost may represent partial fulfillment—Gentiles included in messianic salvation. Ultimate fulfillment awaits the eschaton when all nations stream to Zion (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Historical Context

Elamites did experience some restoration of cultural identity under Persian rule, though not political independence. Christian evangelization of Elam occurred early (tradition holds the apostle Thomas ministered there). But full restoration awaits Christ's return when 'the earth will be filled with knowledge of the LORD' (Habakkuk 2:14).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God promise restoration to pagan nations like Elam alongside Israel?
2. How does this verse anticipate the Great Commission and Gentile inclusion in God's redemptive plan?
3. What does 'latter days' restoration reveal about God's ultimate purposes in judgment—is destruction final or remedial?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	בְּאַחֲרֵי יָמֵי	הַיָּמִים	אֲשֶׁר וּב	אֶת
H1961	But it shall come to pass in the latter	days	that I will bring again	H853
	H319	H3117	H7725	
שְׁבוּ יִתְּ	עֵלַי מִ	נֹאמַר	יְהוָה:	
the captivity	of Elam	saith	the LORD	
H7622	H5867	H5002	H3068	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 48:47 (References Lord): Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.