

Jeremiah 50:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead.

Analysis

And I will bring Israel again to his habitation—God promises restoration following judgment. The verb shuv (שׁוּב, bring again) means to return, restore, bring back—the same word used for repentance. Israel's return is both geographical (back to the land) and spiritual (back to covenant relationship). 'His habitation' (naveh, נֶבֶךְ) means pasture, dwelling place—where the flock belongs under the shepherd's care.

And he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead—these geographical locations represent the fullness of the promised land. Carmel (northwest) was famed for fertility. Bashan (northeast) was renowned for pasture and cattle. Mount Ephraim (central hill country) and Gilead (east of Jordan) complete the picture of comprehensive restoration. The verb ra'ah (רָעָה, feed) means to pasture, to shepherd—God as shepherd leads His flock to abundant provision. 'His soul shall be satisfied' (saba, שָׂבַע) means filled, content, having enough—spiritual and physical restoration. This anticipates Jesus as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who abundantly satisfies His sheep (Psalm 23:1-3).

Historical Context

The return began in 538 BC under Cyrus's decree (Ezra 1). Multiple waves of exiles returned over subsequent decades, led by Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

They rebuilt Jerusalem, the temple, and resettled the land. Yet the full restoration prophesied here was not completely realized in the post-exilic period—Rome would later conquer them again. Christian theology sees ultimate fulfillment in the new covenant people of God gathered from all nations, shepherded by Christ, awaiting the new heavens and new earth where God's people will be fully satisfied (Revelation 21-22).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to restore Israel after using Babylon to judge them demonstrate that discipline is not abandonment?
2. What does the imagery of feeding on abundant pastures teach about the nature of God's restoration—not merely return to status quo but to fullness?
3. In what ways does this verse point forward to Christ as the Good Shepherd who brings ultimate restoration and satisfaction?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבַתִּי י	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶל	בְּיָהוּ	וְרָעָה
And I will bring	H853	Israel	H413	to his habitation	and he shall feed
H7725		H3478		H5116	H7462
לְהַכְרִימָם	וּבְבָשָׁן	וּבְהָר	אֶפְרַיִם	וּבְגִלְעָד	וְתִשְׂבֹּעַ
on Carmel	and Bashan	upon mount	Ephraim	and Gilead	shall be satisfied
H3760	H1316	H2022	H669	H1568	H7646
וְנַפְשׁוֹ:					
and his soul					
H5315					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:6 (Parallel theme): For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

Micah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.