

Micah 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.

Analysis

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel (אָסױף אָסױף יאַאַקױװ קאַלאַך קאַבבאַט אַקאַבבאַט שײאַרײַט יִשְׂרָאֵל, asof e'esof Ya'aqov kullakh qabbets aqabbets she'erit Yisrael). The infinitive absolute construction אָסױף אָסױף (asof e'esof) and קַבֵּץ אַקַבֵּץ (qabbets aqabbets) intensifies certainty—"I will surely, surely gather." Despite judgment (v. 3-11), God promises restoration. שְׁאֵרִית (she'erit, remnant) indicates not all perish; a faithful minority survives.

I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold (אֲשִׁים כְּצֹאן בִּצְרָחָה כְּעֵדֶר בְּתוֹךְ הַדָּבָר, asim ke-tson Botsrah ke-eder betokh haddevro). בִּצְרָחָה (Botsrah) was Edomite city known for sheep; עֵדֶר (eder, flock) and דָּבָר (davar, pasture/fold) depict security. God as shepherd regathering scattered flock is powerful imagery (Ezekiel 34:11-16; John 10:11-16). **They shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men** (תְּהִי־מְנַח מְאֹדָם, tehiymenah me-adam)—the restored community will be numerous and joyful.

This sudden shift from judgment to hope is prophetic pattern—God's justice demands judgment of sin, but His mercy preserves a remnant. Isaiah similarly oscillates between judgment and restoration (Isaiah 10:20-23, 11:11-16). Romans 9:27-29 quotes Isaiah's remnant theology. The New Testament church understands itself as the remnant—Jews and Gentiles united in Messiah (Romans 11:5;

Galatians 3:28-29; Ephesians 2:11-22). Judgment isn't God's final word; redemption is (Revelation 21:1-5).

Historical Context

The prophecy points to exile's end and return. After 70 years Babylonian captivity, a remnant returned under Zerubbabel (538 BC—Ezra 1-2), Ezra (458 BC—Ezra 7-8), and Nehemiah (445 BC—Nehemiah 1-2). Yet these returns only partially fulfilled restoration prophecies. The ultimate fulfillment began with Christ's first advent—He is the Good Shepherd gathering God's flock (John 10:16, 11:51-52). Pentecost inaugurated regathering Jews and Gentiles into one body (Acts 2; Ephesians 2:11-22).

The messianic age features Messiah as Shepherd-King (Ezekiel 34:23-24; Micah 5:2-5). Jesus fulfilled this role, declaring: "**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep**" (John 10:11). His second advent will complete the regathering (Matthew 24:31). The sheep imagery pervades Scripture—Psalm 23, Isaiah 53:6, John 10, 1 Peter 2:25, Revelation 7:17. God's covenant faithfulness ensures the remnant's preservation despite judgment's severity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the remnant theology balance divine justice (judgment on covenant-breakers) with divine mercy (preservation of faithful minority)?
2. What does the shepherd imagery teach about God's personal involvement in gathering, protecting, and restoring His people?
3. In what ways does the New Testament church fulfill and expand the remnant concept to include both Jews and Gentiles?

Interlinear Text

אֶעֱשֶׂה י	אֶעֱשֶׂה י	יַעֲקֹב ב	כָּל הַ	אֶעֱשֶׂה	
I will surely	I will surely	O Jacob	H3605	all of thee I will surely	
H622	H622	H3290		H6908	
אֶעֱשֶׂה	שְׂאֵר יֵת	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	יָחַד	אֶשְׂמִיךְ נִו	
all of thee I will surely	the remnant	of Israel	them together	I will put	
H6908	H7611	H3478	H3162	H7760	
כַּצֹּאֵן	בֹּצְרָה	כַּעֲדֹר	בֵּת וְ	הַדֶּבֶר ו	
as the sheep	of Bozrah	as the flock	in the midst	of their fold	
H6629	H1223	H5739	H8432	H1699	
תְּהִיךְ נָה	מֵאֲדָם:				
they shall make great noise	by reason of the multitude of men				
H1949	H120				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 36:37 (References Israel): Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.