

Micah 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.

Analysis

The breaker is come up before them (עֲלָה הַפֹּרֵץ לִפְנֵיהֶם, alah happore ts lifneihem). פֹּרֵץ (porets, breaker/one who breaks through) depicts a military leader breaking through enemy lines or a shepherd breaking down obstacles for his flock. This figure leads the way, clearing paths, removing barriers. Historically, this may picture leaders like Zerubbabel or Nehemiah; messianically, it points to Christ who breaks through sin's barriers, death's grip, and Satan's kingdom.

They have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it (פָּרְצוּ וַעֲבְרוּ שַׁעַר וַיֵּצְאוּ בּוֹ, paretsu va-ya'avru sha'ar va-yetse'u vo). The verbs depict forceful exodus—breaking through (פָּרַץ, parats), passing through (עָבַר, avar), going out (יָצָא, yatsa). They escape captivity, passing through gates that once imprisoned them. This echoes the Exodus—God's people liberated from bondage, marching to freedom under divine leadership.

And their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them (וַעֲבֹר מֶלֶכְכֶּם לִפְנֵיהֶם וַיהוָה בְּרֹאשָׁם, va-ya'avor malkam lifneihem va-YHWH be-rosham). מֶלֶךְ (melekh, king) leads them; explicitly identified as יְהוָה (YHWH) at their רֹאשׁ (rosh, head). This is messianic—the divine King personally leads His people's exodus. Jesus fulfills this: He is both King of Israel (John 1:49, 12:13) and Yahweh incarnate (John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Philippians 2:6-11). He broke through death's

barrier (Romans 4:25), passed through Hades' gates (Matthew 16:18; Revelation 1:18), and leads His people to freedom (Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9).

Historical Context

The imagery draws from exodus typology—God leading Israel from Egyptian bondage through the Red Sea (Exodus 14) toward the promised land. The pillar of cloud/fire represented Yahweh's presence at their head (Exodus 13:21-22). This pattern repeats: Cyrus's edict freed exiles from Babylon (538 BC); God led the return through wilderness (Isaiah 40:3-5, 43:16-21, 48:20-21). Yet historical returns only partially fulfilled these prophecies, pointing forward to greater exodus.

The New Testament presents Christ as the new Moses leading the new exodus. He liberates from sin's bondage (John 8:34-36; Romans 6:17-22), passes through death's waters (baptism imagery—Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12), and leads to eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 1:3-5). Revelation depicts Him as conquering King leading His people to new creation (Revelation 19:11-16, 21:1-5). The Breaker breaks every chain—sin, death, Satan, hell—securing complete redemption for His people.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the title 'the Breaker' describe Christ's work in breaking through barriers of sin, death, and Satan's kingdom?
2. What does the explicit identification of Israel's King as 'the LORD' teach about Messiah's divine identity?
3. In what ways does understanding redemption as a new exodus—with Christ as the new Moses—enrich our appreciation of salvation?

Interlinear Text

עֹלֶה הַ	פֹּרֵץ	לִפְנֵי הַ	פֹּרֵץ	וַיַּעֲבֹר
is come up	The breaker	before	The breaker	and have passed through
H5927	H6555	H6440	H6555	H5674
שַׁעַר	וַיֵּצְאוּ	בֹּ	וַיַּעֲבֹר	מִלְּכֶם
the gate	and are gone out	H0	and have passed through	by it and their king
H8179	H3318		H5674	H4428
לִפְנֵי הַ	וַיְהִי הַ	בְּרֹאשָׁם:		
before	them and the LORD	on the head		
H6440	H3068	H7218		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:12 (References Lord): For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

Revelation 17:14 (Kingdom): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Hebrews 6:20 (Parallel theme): Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Zechariah 10:12 (References Lord): And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

Hosea 1:11 (Parallel theme): Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 55:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org