

Psalm 107:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.

Analysis

This verse describes gathering from geographical dispersion. 'And gathered them out of the lands' refers to exiles returning from various nations. 'From the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south' uses four directions to indicate universal gathering from all places of scattering. The Hebrew actually says 'from the sea' (yam, ים) instead of 'south,' indicating comprehensive gathering from all directions. This prophetically points to the gathering of God's people from all nations (Isaiah 43:5-6; Matthew 8:11). The physical gathering from exile prefigures the spiritual gathering of elect from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 7:9).

Historical Context

The Babylonian exile scattered Jews to various regions of the empire. Return under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah brought back a remnant, though most remained in dispersion. This verse celebrates the beginning of restoration, though complete gathering awaited future fulfillment. Isaiah prophesied more comprehensive gathering (Isaiah 11:11-12; 27:12-13; 43:5-7). Jesus referenced gathering 'from the four winds' (Matthew 24:31). The church now experiences this as elect are gathered from all nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does physical gathering from exile prefigure spiritual gathering of the church?
 2. In what ways does God continue to 'gather' His scattered people today?
 3. What is the relationship between the regathering of Israel and the gathering of the church from all nations?

Interlinear Text

מִצְפָּה וּמִמְעָרָה בְּ מִפְרָץ חַדְדָה וּמִאַרְצָה וְתַּחַת
 them out of the lands And gathered from the east and from the west from the north
 H776 H6908 H4217 H4628 H6828

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and from the south

H3220

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:47 (Parallel theme): Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

Revelation 5:9 (Parallel theme): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

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 31:8 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

Jeremiah 31:10 (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

Deuteronomy 30:3 (Parallel theme): That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

Ezekiel 39:27 (Parallel theme): When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

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