

Zechariah 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

Analysis

I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them (אָשָׁר קָהַל לָהּ) —sharaq (whistle/hiss) is shepherd's call, also used of God summoning Assyria/Egypt as instruments (Isaiah 5:26, 7:18). Here God 'whistles' to regather His scattered flock. Padah (redeem) is covenant language, often used of Exodus redemption. Past redemption from Egypt grounds confidence in future regathering.

And they shall increase as they have increased (וְיָרַב בָּהוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר יָרַב) —restored to former population/glory, reversing decimation of exile. This echoes Abrahamic promises of multiplication (Genesis 12:2, 15:5). God's purposes aren't thwarted by judgment; after discipline comes restoration. **I have redeemed them** uses perfect tense—accomplished fact, guaranteeing future fulfillment. This is prophetic certainty: what God purposes, He accomplishes.

Historical Context

The Jewish population had drastically declined through exile, warfare, assimilation. This promise assured them that despite present small numbers, God would restore them to covenant fruitfulness. Post-exilic growth was modest, but ultimate fulfillment involves the 'Israel of God'—all believers from every nation (Galatians 6:16).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'whistling' to gather His people teach about His initiative versus human effort in salvation?
2. How does understanding redemption as accomplished past tense ('I have redeemed') strengthen faith for future promises?
3. In what sense does the church experience this 'increase' as spiritual Israel today?

Interlinear Text

לֹה	מִ	אָשְׁרַק	הָ	פָּדִית	יְמָ
I will hiss	H8319	for them and gather	H6908	them for I have redeemed	H6299
בָּבוּ:		כִּמְ		בָּבוּ:	
as they have increased	H7235		H3644	as they have increased	H7235

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:26 (Parallel theme): And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

Isaiah 7:18 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

Jeremiah 33:22 (Parallel theme): As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

Hosea 1:10 (Parallel theme): Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

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