

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 (אֶשְׂרָקָה לָהֶם וְאֶגְבְּרֵם)—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 (וְרָבוּ כְמוֹ רָבוּ)—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

אֶשְׁרֹקָה	לָהֶם	וְאֶקְבֹּץ	כִּי	פָדִיתִי יֵם
I will hiss	H0	for them and gather	H3588	them for I have redeemed
H8319		H6908		H6299
כָּבְדוֹ:	כִּמּוֹ	כָּבְדוֹ:		
as they have increased	H3644	as they have increased		
H7235		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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