

Zechariah 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Analysis

And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction (בָּשְׂרָבָה בָּהּ וְחֶרֶם לֹא יִהְיֶה־עִזָּה)—yashav (dwell/inhabit) with security; cherem (utter destruction/devoted to destruction/ban) will never again threaten Jerusalem. Cherem is conquest/judgment language (Deuteronomy 7:2, Joshua 6:17)—cities under God's curse were utterly destroyed. Jerusalem itself experienced cherem in 586 BC (Babylon) and AD 70 (Rome). This verse promises: never again.

But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited (בְּטָחָה יְרוּשָׁלָם לְבָטָח)—betach (security/safety) is covenant blessing language (Leviticus 25:18-19, Deuteronomy 12:10). Millennial Jerusalem enjoys perfect peace under Messiah's reign. No enemies threaten; no invasion possible. This fulfills Ezekiel's vision of secure Israel dwelling in unwalled cities because God Himself is their defense (Ezekiel 38:11). The ultimate fulfillment is the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2-4) where death, sorrow, and destruction are banished forever.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's history is tragically violent: Babylonian destruction (586 BC), Roman destruction (AD 70), Crusader conquests, Muslim rule, constant warfare. This prophecy envisions an unprecedented era when Jerusalem is permanently secure—possible only when the Prince of Peace reigns from David's throne (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does 'no more utter destruction' reveal about God's ultimate purposes for Jerusalem despite its troubled history?
 2. How does millennial Jerusalem's security foreshadow the New Jerusalem's eternal safety?
 3. In what way can believers experience spiritual 'betach' (security) even now through Christ?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:3 (Parallel theme): And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him;

Amos 9:15 (Parallel theme): And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.