

Zechariah 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land,
and shall choose Jerusalem again.

Analysis

And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land—God possesses His people rather than being possessed by them. The verb *nāchal* (נָחַל, 'inherit/possess as inheritance') typically describes Israel inheriting Canaan, but here the roles reverse: Yahweh inherits Judah as His *cheleq* (חֵלֶק, 'portion/allotment'). This recalls Deuteronomy 32:9, 'For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.' We are God's treasured inheritance (Ephesians 1:18).

In the holy land ('*admat haqqōdesh*, אֲדָמַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ)—the only place in Scripture this exact phrase appears. While '*eretz* (אֶרֶץ, 'land') is common, '*adamah* (אֲדָמָה) emphasizes the soil/ground itself, the very dirt becoming 'holy ground' by God's presence. **And shall choose Jerusalem again**—*bāchar* (בָּחַר, 'choose') in the perfect tense: God re-affirms His elective love for Jerusalem despite centuries of judgment. The 'again' ('*ōd*, עוֹד) assures that exile hasn't nullified divine election (Romans 11:29).

Historical Context

The returned remnant questioned whether God still favored them after seventy years of Babylonian exile. Jerusalem lay in ruins, the modest temple couldn't compare to Solomon's glory, and the Davidic throne remained empty. Zechariah reassures them: God's covenant choice of Jerusalem stands firm. The 'holy land' designation sanctifies the geographic inheritance promised to Abraham.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God 'inherits' His people rather than we merely inherit blessings from Him?
2. How does God's unchanging choice of Jerusalem relate to the New Testament vision of the New Jerusalem?
3. In what ways can you more fully become God's 'portion' and inheritance today?

Interlinear Text

וְנָחַל לְ	יְהוָה הַ	אֶת	יְהוּדָה	חֶלְקוֹ	עַל	אֲדָמָתָהּ
shall inherit	And the LORD		Judah	his portion		land
H5157	H3068	H853	H3063	H2506	H5921	H127
בְּקֹדֶשׁ	וְנָחַר	עֲוֹד	בִּירוּשָׁלַם:			
in the holy	and shall choose		Jerusalem			
H6944	H977	H5750	H3389			

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 1:17 (References Lord): Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

Deuteronomy 32:9 (References Lord): For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

Jeremiah 10:16 (References Lord): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Psalms 33:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

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