

# Zephaniah 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah;  
they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they  
lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit  
them, and turn away their captivity.

## Analysis

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**And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah** (ve'hayah chevel liSh'erit beit Yehudah)—God promises dispossessed Philistine territory to Judah's remnant. The Hebrew she'erit (remnant) is a key prophetic concept: God always preserves a faithful minority (Isaiah 10:20-22, Romans 9:27, 11:5).

**The LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity** (paqad... ve'shav shevutam)—'Visit' (paqad) means divine intervention, often for salvation (Genesis 50:24, Exodus 3:16). 'Turn away captivity' is literally 'restore fortunes,' looking beyond Babylon's exile to eschatological restoration. This promise finds fulfillment in Christ's redemption of a remnant from all nations, the true 'Israel of God' (Galatians 6:16).

## Historical Context

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After Babylon's conquest, the Persian period saw some Jewish settlement in formerly Philistine areas. More significantly, early Christianity spread rapidly along this Mediterranean coast (Acts 8:40), with Gentile believers grafted into the remnant of Israel (Romans 11:17-24)—the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the 'remnant' theology comfort believers when the visible church appears compromised or shrinking?
2. In what sense is Christ's church the ultimate 'remnant of the house of Judah' inheriting enemy territory?
3. Where do you see God 'visiting' His people today to 'turn away their captivity'—spiritually if not politically?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיָה H1961	וְהָיָה H2256	וְהָיָה H7611	וְהָיָה H1004	וְהָיָה H3063	וְהָיָה H5921
And the coast	shall be for the remnant	of the house	of Judah		
וְהָיָה H7462	וְהָיָה H1004	וְהָיָה H831	וְהָיָה H6153	וְהָיָה H7257	וְהָיָה H3588
they shall feed	of the house	of Ashkelon	in the evening	shall they lie down	
וְהָיָה H6485	וְהָיָה H3068	וְהָיָה H430	וְהָיָה H7725	וְהָיָה H7622	
shall visit	for the LORD	their God	them and turn away	their captivity	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 4:31** (References Lord): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

**Ezekiel 39:25** (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

**Zephaniah 3:20** (References Lord): At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 33:7** (Parallel theme): And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.

**Jeremiah 29:14** (References Lord): 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.

**Luke 1:68** (References God): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

**Micah 4:7** (References Lord): And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

**Micah 2:12** (Parallel theme): I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.

**Obadiah 1:19** (Parallel theme): And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

**Isaiah 11:11** (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.