

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

עַלְיָהוּ מִיהוּדָה בְּבָתִים לְשָׁאָר יִתְּהַלֵּל וְיִהְיֶה
H1961 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah H5921
H2256 H7611 H1004 H3063

רְעוּ אֶלְעָלָל וְאֶשְׁכָּל לְבָתִים בְּעַת כָּבֵד יְרַבְּצָה אֲלָכָה
they shall feed of the house of Ashkelon in the evening shall they lie down H3588
H7462 H1004 H831 H6153 H7257

שְׁבֹותָם: אֱלֹהִים מִיהְיֶה בְּשָׁבֵד אֶלְמָנָה מִפְּלָד
shall visit for the LORD their God them and turn away their captivity H7622
H6485 H3068 H430 H7725

Additional Cross-References

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.