

2 Chronicles 36:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

Analysis

The Chronicler's summary of Israel's rebellion and God's patience: 'And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place.' The phrase 'rising up betimes' (hashkem v'shaloch - rising early and sending) anthropomorphically depicts God's eager, persistent compassion. Despite constant prophetic warnings through multiple messengers, the people mocked and despised God's Word (36:16). This demonstrates that even abundant grace and patience can be spurned, leading ultimately to just judgment. Yet the motivation - compassion for people and His dwelling place - reveals God's heart even when exercising discipline.

Historical Context

This summarizes the prophetic ministry from the divided kingdom through Josiah (c. 930-609 BCE). Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Zephaniah, and others continually called for repentance, yet leadership and people persisted in idolatry, bringing inevitable exile.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to God's 'messengers' - Scripture, preaching, conviction - that call you to repentance?
2. What does God's persistent compassion despite prolonged rebellion teach about His character and patience?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַח וְ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם	עָלֵיהֶם	בְּדַ
and sending	And the LORD	God	of their fathers	H5921	to them by
H7971	H3068	H430	H1		H3027
מַלְאָכָיו	הֶשְׁקֵם	וְשָׁלַח וְ	כִּי	חֲמַל	
his messengers	rising up betimes	and sending	H3588	because he had compassion	
H4397	H7925	H7971		H2550	
עַל	עַמּוֹ	וְעַל	מְעוֹנָו:		
H5921	on his people	H5921	and on his dwelling		
	H5971		H4583		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 35:15 (Sin): I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

Jeremiah 7:13 (Sin): And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Jeremiah 26:5 (Sin): To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

Jeremiah 7:25 (Sin): Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Judges 10:16 (References God): And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.

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