

Daniel 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

Analysis

Daniel continues: 'Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.' The phrase 'watched upon the evil' depicts God's careful execution of warned judgment—not hasty or excessive but measured and just. The affirmation 'the LORD our God is righteous in all his works' praises God's character even while describing judgment. This is remarkable: Daniel doesn't question God's justice but affirms it. The final clause returns to causation: 'we obeyed not his voice.' This covenantal framework pervades the prayer: sin brings judgment; God's judgment is just; the solution requires repentance and appeal to divine mercy. Reformed theology emphasizes this: God's justice in condemning sin is praiseworthy; our response should be acknowledging His righteousness while pleading for mercy based on His character, not our merit.

Historical Context

The phrase 'watched upon the evil' uses language suggesting careful oversight—God didn't arbitrarily or excessively punish but executed precise, measured judgment fitting the sin. Ancient Near Eastern treaties (like Hittite suzerain-vassal treaties) included curse clauses for violation; Israel's covenant similarly specified consequences for disobedience. God's enactment of these curses demonstrated covenant faithfulness: He keeps His word, both blessings and warnings. For Jewish exiles, affirming God's righteousness in their suffering preserved faith: rather than

viewing themselves as abandoned or God as unjust, they acknowledged just judgment while hoping for promised restoration. Church history shows healthy suffering response involves acknowledging God's justice while appealing to His mercy.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does affirming God's righteousness in our suffering differ from passive fatalism or denial of pain?
2. What does the phrase 'watched upon the evil' teach about God's judgments being measured rather than arbitrary or excessive?
3. Why is it spiritually healthy to praise God's justice even when experiencing His discipline?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּשְׁקֵד	וְיָהּוּ הַעַלְמָן	בְּעֵבֶד	וְיִבְיאֵב	עַל יְנֵוּ
watched	Therefore hath the LORD	H5921	upon the evil	and brought
H8245	H3068		H7451	H935
כִּי יְהִי יָקָד	וְיָהּוּ הַעַלְמָן	אֱלֹהִים יְנֵוּ	כָּל עַל	מְעַשֵּׂי
H3588	is righteous	Therefore hath the LORD	our God	in all his works
H6662	H3068	H430	H5921	H3605
רָאשׁ הַעֲשֵׂה וְעַל אָשָׁר	בְּקָלְלָה	שְׁמֵעֲנוּ וְלֹא		H4639
H834	which he doeth	H3808	for we obeyed	not his voice
H6213		H8085		H6963

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 9:7 (Righteousness): O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

Nehemiah 9:33 (Righteousness): Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:

Psalms 51:14 (Righteousness): Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

Jeremiah 44:27 (Evil): Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

Jeremiah 31:28 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

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