

Daniel 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

Analysis

Daniel's intercession intensifies: 'O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.' He appeals to God's righteousness (not Israel's) as basis for mercy—paradoxically, the same righteousness that justly judged can mercifully restore. The request is specific: remove anger from Jerusalem, God's city and holy mountain. The motivation is God-centered: 'thy city,' 'thy holy mountain,' 'thy people'—emphasizing covenant relationship. The concern is that Israel's judgment has become 'reproach to all that are about us,' potentially bringing dishonor to God's name. This covenant argumentation appeals to God's glory, promises, and character rather than claiming Israel deserves relief.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's destruction and Judah's exile made them objects of scorn among surrounding nations (Psalm 44:13-14, 79:4, Lamentations 2:15-16). Ancient Near Eastern peoples interpreted defeat as indicating divine weakness. Babylon's conquest of Judah seemed to vindicate Marduk over Yahweh. Yet the prophets

reframed this: the exile demonstrated Yahweh's justice and covenant faithfulness; eventual restoration would demonstrate His power and mercy. Daniel's prayer appeals to this framework: let restoration vindicate Your name and character. The appeal to 'thy righteousness' encompasses both justice and faithfulness—God's righteousness includes keeping covenant promises, both warnings and restoration. Church history shows similar patterns: God's people's condition affects witness to surrounding culture; renewal demonstrates God's character and draws others to Him.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can God's righteousness be basis for mercy rather than only for judgment?
2. What does emphasizing 'thy city,' 'thy holy mountain,' 'thy people' teach about covenant argumentation in prayer?
3. Why is concern for God's reputation among watching nations a legitimate prayer motivation?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	כָּכֹל	צְדִיקוֹתֶיךָ	יָשָׁב	נָא
O Lord	H3605	according to all thy righteousness	be turned away	H4994
H136		H6666	H7725	
אֶפְרָיִם	וְחֵמָתְךָ	מִעִירְךָ	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	הָרֹם
I beseech thee let thine anger	and thy fury	from thy city	Jerusalem	mountain
H639	H2534	H5892	H3389	H2022
קֹדֶשְׁךָ	כִּי	בַחַטָּא יָנוּ	וּבַעֲוֹנוֹת	אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
thy holy	H3588	because for our sins	and for the iniquities	of our fathers
H6944		H2399	H5771	H1
יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	וְעַמְּךָ	לְחֶרֶץ הִיא	לְכָל	סְבִיבוֹתֵינוּ
Jerusalem	and thy people	are become a reproach	H3605	to all that are about
H3389	H5971	H2781		H5439

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 8:3 (Holy): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Psalms 31:1 (Righteousness): In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

Joel 3:17 (Holy): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

Daniel 9:20 (Holy): And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Psalms 71:2 (Righteousness): Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me.

Psalms 79:4 (Parallel theme): We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

Exodus 20:5 (Sin): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

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