

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

כָּל אָדָן	כָּל אָדָן	בְּצִדְקָתֶךָ	בְּצִדְקָתֶךָ	וְשָׁב	וְשָׁב	בְּאָ	בְּאָ
O Lord	H3605	according to all thy righteousness		be turned away		H4994	
H136		H6666		H7725			
אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	וַיִּחְטֹּם תְּבָ	וַיִּחְטֹּם תְּבָ	מִצְרַיִם	מִצְרַיִם	בָּרָ	בָּרָ
I beseech thee let thine anger		and thy fury		from thy city	Jerusalem	mountain	
H639		H2534		H5892	H3389	H2022	
thy holy	H3588	because for our sins	because for our sins	וְבַעֲוֹן וְתָ	וְבַעֲוֹן וְתָ	אָבָתִים	אָבָתִים
H6944		H2399		H5771		H1	
Jerusalem		and thy people	are become a reproach	לְכָל	לְכָל	סְבִיבָתֵינוּ:	סְבִיבָתֵינוּ:
H3389		H5971	H2781	H3605		H5439	to all that are about

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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