

Daniel 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

Analysis

Daniel's confession continues: "Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land." This adds another layer to Israel's guilt—not only did they violate God's revealed law, they rejected His sent messengers. The phrase "thy servants the prophets" emphasizes these were divinely authorized spokespersons, not self-appointed critics. Rejecting prophets meant rejecting God Himself (1 Samuel 8:7, Luke 10:16).

The comprehensive listing—"kings, princes, fathers, and all the people"—indicates that prophetic warning reached every level of society. No one could claim ignorance; all social classes heard divine warning yet chose disobedience. This aggravates guilt: willful rejection of repeatedly offered grace. The phrase "in thy name" emphasizes prophetic authority—these messengers spoke with divine commission, making their rejection particularly heinous.

This pattern recurs throughout redemptive history: God sends prophets, people reject them, judgment follows (Matthew 23:37). Christ, the final prophet (Hebrews 1:1-2), faced ultimate rejection, crucified by those He came to save. Yet His death accomplished salvation for all who receive Him (John 1:11-12). Daniel's confession of Israel's prophetic rejection points to humanity's greater rejection of Christ, yet also to God's redemptive response through the rejected cornerstone.

Historical Context

Israel's history included persistent prophetic ministry: Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others repeatedly warned of covenant violation consequences. Despite miracles, authoritative messages, and patient pleading, the nation generally ignored or persecuted prophets (1 Kings 19:10, Jeremiah 38:6, Matthew 23:29-31). 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 summarizes this pattern: "And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers...But they mocked the messengers of God...until there was no remedy."

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does rejection of divinely sent messengers demonstrate deeper rebellion than mere ignorance or moral failure?
2. What does the comprehensive warning to all social levels teach about God's patience and humanity's accountability?
3. How does Israel's prophetic rejection point forward to humanity's ultimate rejection of Christ, and His redemptive response?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר	רְבָבִיא	יְמִ	אֲשֶׁר	רְבָבִיא	יְמִ
H3808	Neither have we hearkened	H413	עָבֹד יְהָבֵד	unto thy servants	the prophets
	H8085		H5650		H5030
וְאַתָּה	דְּבָרָךְ	בְּשָׁמָךְ	אֶל	שָׁרֵךְ	יְנָה
which spake	in thy name	H413	מֶלֶךְ	יְנָה	אֶל
H1696	H8034		H4428	H8269	
וְאַתָּה	דְּבָרָךְ	בְּשָׁמָךְ	אֶל	שָׁרֵךְ	יְנָה
and our fathers			מֶלֶךְ	יְנָה	אֶל
			H413	H1	
כָּל	עַם	בְּאָרֶץ			
H3605	and to all the people	H5971	of the land	H776	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:34 (Kingdom): Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

Daniel 9:10 (Prophecy): Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Ezra 9:7 (Kingdom): Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.