

Habakkuk 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Analysis

God addresses the vision's timing: 'For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry' (ki-od chazon lamo'ed veyapheach laqqetz velo yekhazzev im-yithmahmeah chakkeh-lo ki-vo yavo lo ye'acher). The vision has an 'appointed time' (mo'ed)—divinely determined moment. 'At the end it shall speak' (veyapheach laqqetz)—it hastens toward its fulfillment. 'Not lie' (lo yekhazzev)—it's absolutely reliable. Though it seems delayed ('tarry,' hitmahmah), believers should 'wait for it' (chakkeh-lo) because 'it will surely come' (ki-vo yavo), 'it will not tarry' (lo ye'acher). This apparent contradiction—it may seem slow but won't actually be late—addresses human impatience versus divine timing. What seems delayed from human perspective arrives exactly on God's schedule. This requires faith: trusting God's promises despite apparent delay.

Historical Context

Habakkuk's prophecy concerned events spanning decades: Babylon's conquest of Judah (beginning 605 BC), the exile period (586-539 BC), and Babylon's eventual fall to Persia (539 BC). From human perspective, these were long delays. Yet each occurred exactly when God ordained. The 70-year exile predicted by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10) ended precisely as promised. Daniel, reading Jeremiah's prophecy during exile, recognized the time was fulfilled (Daniel 9:2). This demonstrates God's meticulous sovereignty over historical timing. What

seems like delay is actually perfect scheduling according to divine purposes. The same principle applies eschatologically—Christ's return may seem delayed, but will occur exactly when ordained (2 Peter 3:8-9).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should believers balance urgent expectation of God's promises with patient acceptance of His timing?
2. What does this passage teach about the certainty of prophetic fulfillment despite apparent delays?
3. How can Christians maintain faith when God's promises seem slow to materialize?

Interlinear Text

אֵבֶן	אֵבֶן	לֹא	אֵבֶן	אֵבֶן
come	come	H3808	it will not tarry	
H935	H935			H309

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:14 (Parallel theme): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Ezekiel 12:25 (Parallel theme): For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

Psalms 102:13 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

Daniel 10:14 (Parallel theme): Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

Micah 7:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

Isaiah 30:18 (Parallel theme): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Acts 1:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Daniel 8:19 (Parallel theme): And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

Luke 2:25 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Galatians 4:2 (Parallel theme): But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.