

Hebrews 10:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Analysis

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

This verse quotes Habakkuk 2:3-4 (though adapted), providing prophetic assurance of Christ's coming. "For yet a little while" (etí gar mikron hoson hoson, ἔτι γὰρ μικρὸν ὅσον ὅσον) emphasizes the brevity of remaining time. The doubled hoson hoson (ὅσον ὅσον, "how much how much") intensifies the shortness—a very, very little while. From God's eternal perspective, even centuries are momentary (2 Peter 3:8). The suffering that seems endless to believers is actually brief compared to eternal glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).

"He that shall come will come" (ho erchomenos hēxei, ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἥξει) refers to Christ's second coming. Ho erchomenos (ὁ ἐρχόμενος, "the Coming One") was a Messianic title. The promise is absolute—He will come. His coming is not uncertain possibility but guaranteed certainty. What seems delayed from human perspective is precisely on schedule from God's perspective.

"And will not tarry" (kai ou chroniei, καὶ οὐ χρονίσει) means will not delay, won't be late. God's timing is perfect—never early, never late. What appears as delay to impatient believers is actually divine patience providing opportunity for repentance (2 Peter 3:9). When the appointed time arrives, Christ will come immediately without further delay.

Historical Context

Habakkuk prophesied during Judah's final years before Babylonian exile. When he questioned why God allowed wickedness, God answered that judgment was coming—though it seemed delayed, it would certainly arrive at the appointed time. The prophet's experience paralleled the early Christians—they saw wickedness, experienced suffering, wondered why God delayed judgment, yet were called to trust His perfect timing.

Early Christians expected Christ's imminent return (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, James 5:8-9). When decades passed without His coming, some mocked (2 Peter 3:3-4) and others wavered. The author reminds them that God's timeline differs from human impatience. What seems delayed is actually perfect timing. Christ will come exactly when the Father has appointed (Acts 1:7, Matthew 24:36).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does confidence in Christ's certain return affect your patience in current suffering and trials?
2. What is the proper balance between living as though Christ might return today and planning wisely for potential years ahead?
3. How can you maintain urgent evangelism and holy living while also patiently enduring prolonged trials?

Interlinear Text

ἔτι	γὰρ	μικρὸν	ὅσον	ὅσον	ό	ἐρχόμενος	ἥξει
yet	For	a little	while	while	G3588	and he that shall come	will come
G2089	G1063	G3397	G3745	G3745		G2064	G2240
καὶ	οὐ	χρονιεῖ					
and	not	tarry					
G2532	G3756	G5549					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 18:8 (Parallel theme): I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Revelation 22:20 (Parallel theme): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Isaiah 26:20 (Parallel theme): Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Isaiah 60:22 (Parallel theme): A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

2 Peter 3:8 (Parallel theme): But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.