

Isaiah 5:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!

Analysis

The mockers' challenge—'Let him make speed, and hasten his work...let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh'—expresses arrogant unbelief, daring God to judge. This cynical demand for immediate divine action demonstrates hardened hearts that mistake patience for impotence. Peter later identifies this same scoffing: 'Where is the promise of his coming?' (2 Peter 3:3-4). God's patience in delaying judgment, meant to prompt repentance, instead emboldens the rebellious.

Historical Context

Decades between Isaiah's warnings and Babylonian conquest allowed scoffers to mock prophetic threats. Yet delay didn't indicate divine indifference but longsuffering (2 Peter 3:9).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's patience in delaying promised judgment sometimes embolden rather than soften hearts?
2. What modern scoffing at divine promises do we encounter or participate in?

Interlinear Text

הָאֹמְרִים	יִמֵּה רַח	יְחַיֵּשׁהּ	מַעֲשֵׂה הוּא	לִמְעַן
That say	Let him make speed	and hasten	his work	H4616
H559	H4116	H2363	H4639	
נִרְאֶה	וְתִקַּבְּ	וְתָבֹא	עַצְתָּ	קֹדֶשׁ
that we may see	draw nigh	and come	it and let the counsel	of the Holy One
H7200	H7126	H935	H6098	H6918
יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְנִדְעָה:			
of Israel	that we may know			
H3478	H3045			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 12:22 (References Israel): Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?

Jeremiah 17:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now.

Jeremiah 23:36 (Parallel theme): And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.