

Luke 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

Analysis

The 'whole multitude of the people' praying outside during the incense offering created the sacred context for Gabriel's appearance. The hour of incense—9 AM or 3 PM—was a set time of prayer, showing the importance of regular, corporate worship. Their prayers ascending with the incense (Rev 8:3-4) demonstrate the connection between faithful intercession and divine intervention. The congregation's ignorance of the angelic visitation reminds us that God works behind visible circumstances in answer to prayer.

Historical Context

The morning and evening incense offerings coincided with the daily sacrifices, creating structured times for national prayer. This corporate intercession represented Israel's longing for Messiah and redemption, which God was about to answer through John's birth.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does corporate prayer create conditions for God's intervention in history?
2. Why is regular, disciplined prayer important even when we don't see immediate results?
3. What might God be doing behind the scenes in response to your prayers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος τοῦ λαοῦ ἦν προσευχόμενον
And the whole multitude of the people were praying
G2532 G3956 G3588 G4128 G2992 G2258 G4336

ἔξω τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ θυμιάματος
without at the time of incense
G1854 G3588 G5610 G3588 G2368

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 16:17 (Parallel theme): And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

Revelation 8:3 (Prayer): And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.