

Luke 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Analysis

Jesus applies the lesson: 'And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?' This rhetorical question expects affirmative answer: of course God will avenge His elect! The term 'his own elect' ($\tauῶν ἐκλεκτῶν αὐτοῦ$, $tōn eklektōn autou$) refers to God's chosen people who 'cry day and night unto him' ($\betaοῶντων αὐτῷ ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτός$, $boōntōn autō hēmeras kai nyktos$)—persistent, urgent prayer. The phrase 'though he bear long with them' ($καὶ μακροθυμεῖ ἐπ' αὐτοῖς$, $kai makrothymei ep' autois$) indicates God's patience, not indifference. Divine delay isn't abandonment but longsuffering that provides opportunity for greater good to emerge. God will certainly vindicate His people, though timing may test faith.

Historical Context

The term 'elect' reflects biblical teaching on divine election—God chose His people before creation (Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8:29-30, 2 Thessalonians 2:13). Their security rests not on their faithfulness but God's unchanging purpose. That they 'cry day and night' indicates persistent prayer characterized by urgency and desperation. The phrase 'bear long' ($μακροθυμεῖ$, $makrothymei$) means patience, longsuffering—God delays answers not from callousness but purposes beyond immediate understanding. His delays often serve to:

1. deepen dependence
2. strengthen faith

3. reveal deeper needs
4. accomplish larger purposes
5. prepare recipients for blessings.

Delayed answers aren't denials but divine wisdom working beyond our sight.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does describing believers as 'elect' teach about the security and certainty of answered prayer?
2. How should you interpret delayed answers to prayer—as divine indifference or divine wisdom?
3. What purposes might God accomplish through delaying answers that He couldn't accomplish through immediate response?

Interlinear Text

τῶν	δὲ	θεὸς	οὐ	μὴ	ποιήσει	τῶν	ἐκδίκησιν	τῶν
which	And	God	G3756	G3361	G4160	which	avenge	which
G3588	G1161	G2316				G3588	G1557	G3588
ἐκλεκτῶν	αὐτοῖς	τῶν	βιώντων	πρὸς	αὐτοῖς	ἡμέρας	καὶ	
elect	him	which	cry	unto	him	day	and	
G1588	G846	G3588	G994	G4314	G846	G2250	G2532	
νυκτός	καὶ	μακροθυμῶν	ἐπ'	αὐτοῖς				
night	and	he bear long	with	him				
G3571	G2532	G3114	G1909	G846				

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:9 (Parallel theme): The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Luke 11:13 (Parallel theme): If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Revelation 6:10 (Parallel theme): And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

1 Timothy 5:5 (References God): Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

2 Thessalonians 1:6 (References God): Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

Psalms 88:1 (References God): O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

Matthew 7:11 (Parallel theme): If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Luke 2:37 (References God): And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Habakkuk 2:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Revelation 18:20 (References God): Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.