

Luke 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Analysis

The promise and question: 'I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?' Jesus promises: God 'will avenge them speedily' (ἐν τάχει, en tachei, quickly, soon). This seems to contradict 'bear long' (v. 7). The resolution: God's timing is 'speedy' from eternal perspective, though it may seem slow from human viewpoint. 'With the Lord one day is as a thousand years' (2 Peter 3:8). Then Jesus asks a haunting question: 'when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?' (ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐλθὼν ἄρα εὕρήσει τὴν πίστιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ho huios tou anthrōpou elthōn ara heurēsei tēn pistin epi tēs gēs). Persistence in prayer expresses faith; abandoning prayer reveals unbelief. Will Christ return to find His people still faithfully praying?

Historical Context

Jesus' question anticipates widespread apostasy before His return. Paul warns of end-times abandonment of faith (1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:3-4). Revelation describes spiritual decline in churches (Revelation 2-3). The question isn't whether there will be any believers (there will be—Matthew 24:22) but whether persistent, faith-filled prayer will characterize the church. Many professed Christians may abandon prayer and faith when faced with prolonged trials, delayed answers, and cultural opposition. The parable challenges every generation: will you maintain persistent, faithful prayer regardless of delays or discouragements? Or will you

abandon prayer and drift into unbelief? Enduring faith persists in prayer until Christ returns.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' question about finding faith challenge assumptions about end-times revival?
2. What's the relationship between persistence in prayer and maintaining faith until Christ's return?
3. How can you cultivate the kind of persistent, faithful prayer Jesus commends here?

Interlinear Text

λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ποιήσει	τὴν	ἐκδίκησιν	αὐτῶν	ἐν	τάχει
I tell	you	that	he will	G3588	avenge	them	G1722	speedily
G3004	G5213	G3754	G4160		G1557	G846		G5034

πλὴν	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	ἐλθὼν	ἄρα	εὕρησει
Nevertheless	G3588	the Son	G3588	of man	cometh	when	shall he find
G4133		G5207		G444	G2064	G687	G2147

τὴν	πίστιν	ἐπὶ	τῆς	γῆς
G3588	faith	on	G3588	the earth
	G4102	G1909		G1093

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 46:5 (Parallel theme): God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

2 Peter 2:3 (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Matthew 24:24 (Parallel theme): For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

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