

# Zechariah 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.

## Analysis

The angels' report: 'We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.' This describes world conditions circa 520 BC —Persia had stabilized after Darius suppressed rebellions. Yet this 'rest' is problematic; Israel remains weak under foreign rule while their oppressors enjoy peace. The report sets up the question: when will God judge nations and restore Israel? The angels' report creates tension between present reality (Gentile prosperity) and prophetic promise (Israel's restoration).

## Historical Context

Darius I's early reign (522-520 BC) saw widespread revolts throughout the Persian Empire. By 520 BC, he had suppressed these, bringing enforced peace. The Jewish remnant hoped these upheavals signaled messianic restoration, but instead Persia stabilized. This disappointed eschatological expectations, prompting God's reassurance through Zechariah that restoration would come on His timeline, not theirs.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the tension between Gentile peace and Israel's weakness challenge us to trust God's timing when circumstances seem contrary to promises?
2. What does this report teach us about God's sovereignty over international affairs, not merely spiritual matters?

## Interlinear Text

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And they answered	H853	the angel	H4397	of the LORD	H3068	that stood	H996	בְּ יְהִי בָּעֵמָד	וְיִשְׁעַבְנָה
H6030									
among the myrtle trees	H1918	and said	H559	We have walked to and fro	H1980	and behold all the earth	H776	בְּאָרֶץ	הַתְּבִלָּה כָּנוּ
H2009	H3605								
and behold all the earth	H776	בְּאָרֶץ	H3427	sitteth still	H8252	and is at rest	H8252	וְשָׁקַטְתָּה:	בָּתְּשִׁיבָה

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 1:10** (References Lord): And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth.

**Zechariah 1:8** (Parallel theme): I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white.

**Zechariah 1:15** (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

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