

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

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

וַיַּעֲנוּ	אֶת	מַלְאָךְ	יְהוָה	הַעֹמֵד	בֵּין
And they answered	H853	the angel	of the LORD	that stood	H996
H6030		H4397	H3068	H5975	
הַהֲדָסִים	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְהָלַכְנוּ	וְרָאנוּ	כָּל	אֶרֶץ
among the myrtle trees	and said	We have walked to and fro	and behold	all the earth	
H1918	H559	H1980		H776	
כָּל	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H2009	H3605	and behold all the earth	sitteth still	and is at rest	
		H776	H3427	H8252	

Additional Cross-References

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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