

Zechariah 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?

Analysis

The Angel of the LORD's response to the report: 'O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?' This identifies the Angel as distinct from Yahweh yet interceding with Him—supporting the Angel's identification as pre-incarnate Christ. The 'how long' expresses the proper concern over delayed restoration. The seventy years marks Jeremiah's prophecy (Jer. 25:11-12), now complete. The Angel's intercession demonstrates Christ's ongoing priestly ministry for His people.

Historical Context

The seventy years spanned from Jerusalem's destruction (586 BC) to this vision (520 BC), though Jeremiah's prophecy allowed various computation methods. The exile period had ended with Cyrus's decree (538 BC), but full restoration remained incomplete. The temple lay unfinished; Jerusalem's walls remained broken. God's 'indignation' (divine wrath) had accomplished its purpose; the time for mercy had come.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the Angel of the LORD's intercession prefigure Christ's present intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25)?
2. What does the completion of seventy years teach us about God's precise fulfillment of prophetic timeframes?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	מַלְאָךְ	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְ	עַד	מֵת י
answered	Then the angel	O LORD	and said	O LORD	of hosts	H5704	H4970
H6030	H4397	H3068	H559	H3068	H6635		
לֹא	אֶתָּה	תִּבְרַח מ	אֶת	יְרוּשָׁלַם	וְ	אֶת	יְהוָה
H859	H3808	how long wilt thou not have mercy	H853	on Jerusalem	H853		
		H7355		H3389			
עַל י	יְהוּדָה	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוָה	זַע מִתָּה	יְהוָה		
and on the cities	of Judah	H834	against which thou hast had indignation	H2194	H2088		
H5892	H3063						
שָׁבַע יָמִים	שָׁנָה:						
these threescore and ten	years						
H7657	H8141						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:13 (Grace): Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

Jeremiah 29:10 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

Daniel 9:2 (References Lord): In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Psalms 74:10 (Parallel theme): O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?

Zechariah 7:5 (Parallel theme): Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

Revelation 6:10 (References Lord): 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?

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.

2 Chronicles 36:21 (References Lord): To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.