

Zechariah 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

Analysis

God's rhetorical question: 'But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers?' The answer is obviously yes—God's words 'took hold,' meaning judgment caught up with them. The phrase suggests inescapable consequences; divine words accomplish their purpose (Isaiah 55:11). The fathers' return and acknowledgment demonstrates judgment's effectiveness in producing repentance. God's word never fails—whether in blessing obedience or judging rebellion. Prophecy's fulfillment vindicates divine truthfulness.

Historical Context

The exile's fulfillment of prophetic warnings vindicated God's word. Jeremiah prophesied seventy years (Jer. 25:11-12); it happened exactly. The returning remnant could testify to prophecy's accurate fulfillment. 'They returned and said' likely refers to the exiled generation's eventual acknowledgment of God's justice in judgment (cf. Lamentations). Historical fulfillment provides empirical evidence of Scripture's reliability.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the certain fulfillment of God's warnings encourage us to take His word seriously before judgment comes?
2. What does the fathers' eventual acknowledgment teach us about God's justice being ultimately undeniable?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| אֵלֶּה | דְּבַר י' | וְחֻקֵּי י' | אֲשֶׁר ר | צִוִּיתִי | אֵת |
| H389 | But my words | and my statutes | H834 | which I commanded | H853 |
| | H1697 | H2706 | | H6680 | |
| עֲבָדֵי י' | הַנְּבִיאִים | הֵל וְא | הֲשִׁי יְגוֹ | אֲבֹתֶיךָ | |
| my servants | the prophets | H3808 | did they not take hold | of your fathers | |
| H5650 | H5030 | | H5381 | H1 | |
| וַיָּשׁוּבוּ | וַיֹּאמְרוּ | כָּאֲשֶׁר ר | זָמַם | יְהוָה | צְבָאוֹת |
| and they returned | and said | H834 | thought | Like as the LORD | of hosts |
| H7725 | H559 | | H2161 | H3068 | H6635 |
| עָשָׂה | לָנוּ | כְּדַרְכֵּינוּ | וְכַמֵּן | עָלֵינוּ | יְגוֹ |
| so hath he dealt | H0 | unto us according to our ways | and according to our doings | | |
| H6213 | | H1870 | H4611 | | |
| כִּי | עָשָׂה | אֵתָנוּ: | | | |
| H3651 | so hath he dealt | H854 | | | |
| | H6213 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 2:17 (Word): The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

Deuteronomy 28:15 (Word): But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Jeremiah 23:20 (References Lord): The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Jeremiah 44:28 (Word): Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or their's.

Amos 9:10 (Word): All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.

Numbers 23:19 (Parallel theme): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Isaiah 44:26 (Word): That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

Isaiah 55:1 (Parallel theme): Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Job 6:29 (Parallel theme): Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it.

