

Zechariah 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

Analysis

The vision's introduction: 'Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah.' This occurs three months after the initial message (v. 1), marking February 519 BC. The precise dating emphasizes God's timing—during temple rebuilding, God provides encouraging visions. The formula 'came the word of the LORD' asserts divine initiative in revelation. Prophets don't generate messages but receive them from God. True prophecy is passive reception of divine communication.

Historical Context

Sebat (eleventh month, January-February) was winter in Palestine, typically a slow agricultural season allowing focus on temple construction. Three months of work had passed since Haggai and Zechariah's initial messages stirred the people (Haggai 1:15-2:1). The timing suggests God encouraged workers with visions during the difficult construction period. Darius's second year continued the Persian authorization for temple rebuilding.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's timing of encouraging visions during difficult work demonstrate His pastoral care for His people?
2. What does the formula 'came the word' teach us about true prophecy being divine initiative, not human invention?

Interlinear Text

הוא	ח' דש	עשר	ר	לעשתי	וארבע	ה	עשר	ים	ביום
	month			of the eleventh	Upon the four		and twentieth		day
H1931	H2320		H6240	H6249	H702		H6242		H3117
דבר	ה' ה	לדרי	וש	שנת	ים	בשנ	ת	שכ	ט
came the word		of Darius		in the second		year	Sebat		month
H1697	H1961	H1867		H8147		H8141	H7627		H2320
עד וא	בן	ב רכ	הו	בן	זכריה	אל	יהו	ה	
of Iddo	the son	of Berechiah		the son	unto Zechariah		of the LORD		
H5714	H1121	H1296		H1121	H2148	H413	H3068		
לאמר:	הנב	יא							
saying	the prophet								
H559	H5030								