

Zechariah 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.

Analysis

Zechariah's response: 'Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.' The prophet's humble inquiry ('O my lord') shows proper reverence. His question demonstrates that visions require interpretation; symbolic revelation isn't self-evident but needs divine explanation. The interpreting angel functions as guide, showing that God provides understanding alongside revelation. This models proper response to Scripture's difficult passages—ask for divine illumination.

Historical Context

Ancient prophetic visions frequently included interpreting figures (cf. Daniel's visions). This pedagogical approach—vision followed by explanation—ensured prophets understood messages accurately. The angel's promise 'I will shew thee' emphasizes divine initiative in granting understanding. Post-exilic prophecy increasingly featured angelic mediators, perhaps emphasizing divine transcendence while maintaining accessibility through intermediaries.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Zechariah's asking for interpretation model our need to seek divine understanding of Scripture rather than relying solely on human insight?
2. What does God's provision of an interpreting angel teach us about His commitment to making revelation understandable?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּוּ וְאָמַרְתָּ מָה
Then said H4100 H428 I O my lord H113 Then said H413
H559 H559

מָה אָרַאֲתָנִי
what are these And the angel that talked H1696 H0 H589 unto me I will shew H4100
H4397 H7200

מָה אָלַהּ: הַ מָּה
H1992 H428

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 5:5 (Parallel theme): Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.

Zechariah 2:3 (Parallel theme): And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,

Zechariah 1:19 (Parallel theme): And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.