

Zechariah 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Analysis

And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts—universal requirement: all nations must send representatives annually. **Even upon them shall be no rain** (וְלَا עַלְيָהֶם וְהִיא הַשְׁמָן)—geshem (rain) withheld as covenant curse for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:23-24). This demonstrates that millennial kingdom, though characterized by peace and righteousness under Messiah's rule, still involves human responsibility and consequences for disobedience.

Rain represents God's blessing and agricultural prosperity. Withholding rain causes famine, economic collapse, suffering—motivating compliance. This isn't arbitrary tyranny but covenantal: obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings curse (Deuteronomy 11:13-17). The principle that governed Israel's land promises now extends globally under Messiah's reign. This challenges overly romanticized views of millennium as automatic utopia; it involves Christ's 'iron rod' rule (Revelation 19:15) enforcing righteousness.

Historical Context

During Christ's millennial reign from Jerusalem, international worship at Feast of Tabernacles isn't optional—it's mandatory with enforced penalties. This demonstrates Christ's kingly authority over all nations and validates the gospel's

call to submission. Even in glorified conditions, human will requires divine governance to maintain righteousness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does mandatory worship with consequences teach about God's rightful authority over all humanity?
2. How does millennial kingdom involving 'stick' (withheld rain) and 'carrot' (blessing) parallel gospel invitation?
3. Why is enforced righteousness necessary even in millennial kingdom before final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)?

Interlinear Text

מְאֹת פִּיהִים יַעֲלֶה הַר אֶשְׁר לֹא יָבֹא
H1961 H834 H3808 And it shall be that whoso will not come up
H5927 H853

לֹא יָבֹא רַצְחָנָה וְתַחֲנוּן מִשְׁפָּחָה וְתַחֲנוּן
H4940 H776 H413 H3389 H7812 H4428
of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King

וְתַחֲנוּן לְפָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי הַמֶּלֶךְ כְּבָשָׂמִים
H3068 H6635 H3808 H5921 H1961 H1653
the LORD of hosts even upon them shall be no rain

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:12 (Kingdom): For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

Jeremiah 14:4 (Parallel theme): Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads.

Revelation 11:6 (Parallel theme): These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Deuteronomy 11:17 (References Lord): And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

James 5:17 (Parallel theme): Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Jeremiah 14:22 (References Lord): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

Zechariah 14:16 (Kingdom): And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Genesis 12:3 (Parallel theme): And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 10:32 (Parallel theme): These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.

