

Zechariah 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

Analysis

This cryptic apocalyptic prophecy declares 'it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark' (the Hebrew text is difficult, with variant readings: 'precious lights will congeal' or 'lights will withdraw'). The vision depicts cosmic disruption accompanying the Day of the LORD. Verses 6-7 describe abnormal celestial phenomena: neither full light nor complete darkness, but twilight that persists. Verse 7 calls it 'one day... not day, nor night: but... at evening time it shall be light.' This supernatural light source recalls creation when God said 'Let there be light' before creating sun, moon, and stars (Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19). Eschatologically, it points to Revelation 21:23—the New Jerusalem needs no sun because 'the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.'

Historical Context

Zechariah 14 describes the eschatological Day of the LORD: nations gathering against Jerusalem (vv. 1-2), Messiah's appearing and fighting for Israel (vv. 3-5), cosmic upheaval (vv. 6-7), living waters flowing from Jerusalem (v. 8), and YHWH becoming king over all the earth (v. 9). This prophecy transcends immediate post-exilic context, pointing to end-times events. Partial historical fulfillments (Maccabean victories, Roman destruction, etc.) typify the ultimate fulfillment at Christ's return. Jesus referenced similar cosmic signs (Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24-25), as does Revelation (6:12-14, 8:12). The 'one day known to the LORD' (v. 7) emphasizes its uniqueness and divine sovereignty over timing.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do apocalyptic prophecies of cosmic upheaval shape my eschatological hope and present endurance?
2. What does it mean that God Himself will be the light source in the new creation, and how should this affect my worship?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאמֶר	בַּיּוֹם	לֹא	בַּהֲיוֹן	אֲוֹרֶת
H1961	And it shall come to pass in that day	H1931	H3808	H1961
	H3117			H216
וְתַהַרְתָּ	בְּלֹא־שָׁמֶן			
shall not be clear	nor dark			
H3368	H7087			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:15 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Psalms 112:4 (Light): Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

2 Peter 1:19 (Light): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

John 12:46 (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

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