

Zechariah 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Analysis

Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation—The chapter climaxes with a call to cosmic reverence. Has (הָסֵ, 'hush/be silent') is an interjection demanding immediate silence, found in only seven Old Testament passages, each marking awesome divine intervention (Habakkuk 2:20; Zephaniah 1:7). Kol-bāsār (כָּל-בָּשָׂר, 'all flesh') encompasses all humanity, all created beings—universal awe before divine action.

For he is raised up out of his holy habitation—ne'ōr (נֵעִיר, 'aroused/awakened') depicts God rousing Himself from apparent inactivity to decisive intervention. This anthropomorphic language doesn't imply God sleeps, but that He moves from patient waiting to active judgment and redemption. Me'ōn qodsho (מֵעַן קָדוֹשׁוֹ, 'His holy habitation') locates God's dwelling in heaven, from which He now descends to fulfill His promises. When God arises, all creation holds its breath (Psalm 76:8-9). This verse anticipates both Incarnation and Second Coming—moments when heaven invades earth and silence becomes the only appropriate response.

Historical Context

In an age of competing religious claims and pagan deities worshiped noisily (1 Kings 18:26-28), Zechariah calls for silence—acknowledging Yahweh alone acts in history. The post-exilic community, tempted to doubt God's activity during decades of delay, hears that God is 'arousing Himself' to fulfill every promise. Silence

before God remains the proper posture when human words fail before divine majesty (Job 40:4-5).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why does God's activity evoke silence rather than praise (though praise follows)?
2. How can we cultivate reverent silence before God in a noisy, distracted culture?
3. What does God 'arousing Himself from His holy habitation' reveal about His sovereignty over timing?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׂר	מִפְנֵי	בְּשָׁרֶךָ	יְהִי	כִּי	גַּעַוֵּר
Be silent	H3605	O all flesh	before	the LORD	H3588
H2013		H1320	H6440	H3068	H5782

מִשְׁעָן וְקַדְשָׁו׃
habitation out of his holy

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:20 (Holy): But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Psalms 68:5 (Holy): A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Zephaniah 1:7 (References Lord): Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

Psalms 78:65 (References Lord): Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

Zephaniah 3:8 (Resurrection): Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

Isaiah 51:9 (References Lord): Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

Psalms 46:10 (Parallel theme): Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Romans 9:20 (Parallel theme): Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

Psalms 11:4 (Holy): The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Deuteronomy 26:15 (Holy): Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.