

Zechariah 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.

Analysis

For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants—Divine reversal where Israel's oppressors become plunder to those they enslaved. The Hebrew *nōphēph* (נָפַח, 'to shake/wave the hand') depicts God's sovereign gesture commanding judgment, like a commander signaling attack. This continues the promise from verses 7-8 where God declared He would punish the nations that plundered His people.

And ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me—The mysterious prophetic 'me' appears again (also 2:8-11; 4:9; 6:15). Who is this divine messenger sent by Yahweh yet distinct from Him? The Angel of the LORD speaks as God yet refers to being 'sent' by God—a Christophany, pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. The vindication of Israel will prove that Zechariah's message came from the LORD's authorized representative. The Hebrew *shālach* (שָׁלַח, 'sent') emphasizes divine commission and authority.

Historical Context

Written during temple rebuilding (520 BC), when the tiny Jewish remnant faced hostility from surrounding nations—Samaritans, Ammonites, Arabs, and Ashdodites who had opposed the work (Ezra 4:1-5; Nehemiah 4:7-8). The promise of reversal where servants plunder their former masters would have seemed

impossible to this weak community, yet it foreshadows ultimate eschatological vindication.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the concept of divine reversal (oppressors becoming plunder) reflect God's justice throughout Scripture?
2. What does the mysterious 'sent one' who speaks with divine authority teach us about Christ's pre-existence?
3. In what ways do you need to trust God's promise of vindication when circumstances seem hopeless?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	הִנֵּנִי	יָדֵי	אֶת	עָלַיָּהּ	וְהִי
H3588	H2005	H5130	H853	H5921	H1961
	For behold I will shake	mine hand			
	שָׁלַל	לְעַבְדֶּיהָ	וַיֵּדְעוּ	כִּי	
	H7998	H5650	H3045	H3588	
	upon them and they shall be a spoil	and ye shall know			
יְהוָה	צָבָא	שְׁלֹחֲנִי:			
H3068	H6635	H7971			
that the LORD	of hosts	hath sent			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 19:16 (References Lord): In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.

Isaiah 14:2 (References Lord): And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.

Zechariah 4:9 (References Lord): The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

Ezekiel 39:10 (References Lord): So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 11:15 (References Lord): And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.

Zechariah 6:15 (References Lord): And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.