

Zechariah 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

Analysis

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts—Conditional covenant blessings tied to faithful obedience. The dual 'if' clauses establish prerequisites: *teleḵ bidərākay* (תֵּלֵךְ בְּדַרְכַּי, 'walk in my ways') demands lifestyle conformity to God's character and commands, while *tishmōr et-mishmarti* (תִּשְׁמֹר אֶת־מִשְׁמַרְתִּי, 'keep my charge') requires faithful discharge of priestly duties (Leviticus 8:35; Numbers 3:7-8).

Then thou shalt also judge my house—*tādīn et-bēytī* (תִּדְּיִן אֶת־בֵּיתִי, 'govern/administer my house') grants judicial and administrative authority over the temple and its operations. **And I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by**—Astounding promise: *mahləḵīm* (מַהֲלָכִים, 'free access/right of entry') among the standing angels. The high priest gains access to the heavenly court, walking among the *'ōmēḏīm* (עֹמְדִים, 'those standing')—the angelic ministers around God's throne. This previews believers' access to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22) and our destiny as co-heirs with Christ, seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). Faithful earthly service earns eternal privilege in God's presence.

Historical Context

The high priest's unique access to the Holy of Holies once yearly (Leviticus 16) foreshadowed this greater access. Joshua's obedience would determine whether the priesthood functioned as intended—mediating between God and people, teaching Torah, and maintaining temple worship. The promise of 'walking among' angels elevates priestly service from earthly ritual to participation in cosmic worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do the 'if-then' conditions balance grace (vv. 4-5) with responsibility?
2. What does 'walking among angels' reveal about the spiritual realities behind physical worship?
3. In what ways does Christ's high priesthood fulfill and surpass the access promised to Joshua?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צָבָא וְ	אִם	בְּדַרְכֵי י	תֵּלֵךְ	וְאִם	אֶת
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	H518	in my ways	H1980	H518	H853
	H559	H3068	H6635		H1870			
מִשְׁמֶרֶת י	תִּשְׁמֹר	וְגַם	אֶתָּה	תִּדּוֹן	אֶת			
my charge	and if thou wilt keep	H1571	H859	then thou shalt also judge	H853			
H4931	H8104			H1777				
בֵּית י	וְגַם	תִּשְׁמֹר	אֶת	חֲצֵצֵי י	וְנָתַתִּי י	לְךָ		
my house	H1571	and if thou wilt keep	H853	my courts	and I will give	H0		
H1004		H8104		H2691	H5414			
מִהֵלֶךְ ים	בְּ ין	הָעֹמְדִים	הָאֵלֶּה:					
thee places to walk	H996	among these that stand by	H428					
H4108		H5975						

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 19:28 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Genesis 26:5 (Parallel theme): Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Leviticus 8:35 (References Lord): Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.