

Zechariah 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The prophecy's scope expands: *ūrəchōqīm yāḇō'ū ūḇānū bəhēykal Yahweh* (וְרַחֲקִים יָבוֹאוּ וְבָנוּ בְּהֵיכַל יְהוָה, 'and those far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD'). The 'far off' (*rəchōqīm*, רַחֲקִים) are distant peoples—Gentiles—who will participate in building God's temple. This echoes 2:11, 'many nations shall be joined to the LORD.' Ephesians 2:13, 17 quotes this: 'But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh... and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.'

Gentiles build the temple by becoming 'living stones' in God's spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). Paul calls Gentile believers 'fellow citizens... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord' (Ephesians 2:19-21). **And ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me**—when distant peoples build God's temple (the church), it proves Zechariah spoke by divine commission. **And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God**—conditional: covenant blessing depends on obedience. The promises stand, but individual participation requires faithfulness.

Historical Context

In Zechariah's day, Gentile participation seemed unlikely—Israel was a tiny, struggling remnant. Yet Pentecost inaugurated mass Gentile inclusion (Acts 10-11, 15), and within decades the church was predominantly non-Jewish. Those 'far off' did come and build the temple—not Zerubbabel's physical structure but Christ's spiritual body. The Second Temple was destroyed in AD 70, but the Spirit-temple of believers continues growing, fulfilling this prophecy. Obedience remains the condition for participating in God's building project.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How did Gentile inclusion in the church fulfill 'they that are far off shall come and build in the temple'?
2. What does 'building in the temple' mean for Christians today who are living stones in God's house?
3. How does the conditional clause ('if ye will diligently obey') balance God's promises with human responsibility?

Interlinear Text

וּרְחוֹק יָם	יָבֹאוּ	וְבָנוּ	בְּהֵיכַל ל	יְהוָה ה		
And they that are far off	shall come	and build	in the temple	of the LORD		
H7350	H935	H1129	H1964	H3068		
וַיֵּדְעוּתְּ מ	כִּי	יְהוָה ה	צָבָא וְת	שָׁלַח נִי	אֵלֶיךָ מ	יְהוָה
and ye shall know	H3588	of the LORD	of hosts	hath sent	H413	H1961
H3045		H3068	H6635	H7971		
אֲדַמְּ	תִשְׁמָע וְ					
H518	me unto you And this shall come to pass if ye will diligently					
	H8085					
	תִּשְׁמָע וְ					
	me unto you And this shall come to pass if ye will diligently					
	H8085					
	בֶּקֶל וְ					
	the voice					
	H6963					
	יְהוָה ה					
	of the LORD					
	H3068					
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:						
your God						
H430						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:10 (Parallel theme): And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

Zechariah 3:7 (References Lord): 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.

Isaiah 57:19 (References Lord): I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

Acts 2:39 (References God): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Romans 16:26 (References God): But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

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