

Zechariah 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country.

Analysis

Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country— Following the seventh vision of four chariots (6:1-7), the angel declares the northern chariot's mission accomplished. The Hebrew hinnēh hayyōtsə'īm el-'eretz tsāphōn hēnīchū et-rūchī be'eretz tsāphōn (הנה פְּנִיאִים אֶל-אֶרֶץ צָפֹן הַנִּיחֹו אֶת-רֻחֹתִי בָּאֶרֶץ) 'behold those going to the land of the north have caused my Spirit to rest in the land of the north'). The verb hēnīchū (הַנִּיחֹו), from nūach, (נוֹחַ) means 'to rest, settle, give rest, pacify.'

My spirit (rūchī) could mean God's anger, His Spirit, or His purpose. Context suggests divine wrath has been satisfied—judgment executed on Babylon (the northern power that exiled Judah). The chariot fulfilled its mission of divine vengeance, 'quieting' God's righteous anger against Israel's oppressors. This previews the ultimate defeat of all anti-God powers. The north held special significance: invading armies (Assyria, Babylon) came from the north; eschatological enemies attack from the north (Ezekiel 38-39). God's Spirit being 'quieted' there means judgment accomplished, enemy subdued, threat neutralized. Christ's victory at the cross similarly 'quieted' God's wrath (Romans 3:25-26; 1 John 2:2).

Historical Context

Babylon lay geographically northeast of Judah, but armies approached via the northern route (Fertile Crescent). Babylon had destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC, but by 520 BC (Zechariah's prophecy), the Persian Empire had conquered Babylon (539 BC). The vision assures that God's judgment against Judah's oppressors is complete—His anger satisfied, His justice served. The remnant can rebuild without fear of northern invasion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does God's 'spirit being quieted' reveal about His anger requiring satisfaction through judgment?
2. How does the northern chariot's mission preview Christ satisfying God's wrath at the cross?
3. In what areas of your life does God's Spirit need to be 'quieted' through justice and righteousness?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּצְאִים רָא הַ לְאָמֵן רַיִדְבָּר אַל יְלַעַג
Then cried H854 me and spake H413 unto me saying H559 Behold H7200 these that go
H2199 H1696 H413 H559 H7200 H3318

בְּאֶרֶץ רֹוחַ יְהוָה אֶל
H413 country H776 in the north H6828 have quieted H5117 he upon H853 my spirit H7307 country
H776

אֶפְרַיִם:
in the north
H6828

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:13 (Parallel theme): Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.

Zechariah 1:15 (Parallel theme): And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.