

Zechariah 8:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

Analysis

Eschatological vision of universal seeking: 'Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.' The Hebrew 'yahziq asharah anashim' (ten men will seize) from 'kol leshonot ha-goyim' (all languages/tongues of the nations) the 'kanaph' (corner/hem) of a Jew's garment, pleading to accompany them because 'Elohim immakhem' (God is with you). This reverses Israel's exile disgrace; nations will recognize God's presence with His people and seek inclusion. Partial fulfillment: proselytes. Full fulfillment: gospel creating one body of Jew and Gentile in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22), where salvation is 'of the Jews' (John 4:22) but extends to all who believe.

Historical Context

Contrasts with Israel's exile when they were mocked by nations (Psalm 137:1-3). God promises reversal: His people will be so blessed that Gentiles will seek them out. 'Ten men' represents completeness/many; 'all languages' indicates universal scope. The vision anticipates Acts 2's Pentecost (people from every nation), the Gentile mission (Acts 10-15), and ultimate ingathering of elect from every tribe,

tongue, and nation (Revelation 7:9). The mechanism: recognizing 'God is with you'—when Christians embody Christ's presence through transformed lives, outsiders are drawn to the gospel (Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12). The church becomes the vehicle through which nations bless themselves in Abraham's seed (Genesis 12:3, Galatians 3:8-9).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Is God's presence so evident in my life that others are attracted to know Him through me?
2. How does the promise of universal blessing through Israel/the church motivate my evangelistic zeal?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	לֵאמֹר	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת	בַּיָּמִים	הָהֵמָּה	אֲשֶׁר
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	In those days	H1992	H834
	H559	H3068	H6635	H3117		
וְהָיוּ יָקוֹץ	עֲשֶׂה ה	אִישׁ	מִכֹּל ל			
even shall take hold	it shall come to pass that ten	of him that is a Jew	H3605			
H2388	H6235	H376				
לְשׁוֹן	הַגּוֹיִם	וְהָיוּ יָקוֹץ	בְּכִנּוֹר			
out of all languages	of the nations	even shall take hold	of the skirt			
H3956	H1471	H2388	H3671			
אִישׁ	יְהוּדִי	לֵאמֹר	נִלְכָּה	עַמְּךָ	כִּי	
of him that is a Jew	H3064	Thus saith	H1980	H5973	H3588	
H376		H559				
שָׁמָּה	אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַמְּךָ				
with you for we have heard	that God	H5973				
H8085	H430					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 45:14 (References God): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Isaiah 55:5 (References God): Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

Isaiah 60:3 (Parallel theme): And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

1 Corinthians 14:25 (References God): And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Isaiah 66:18 (Parallel theme): For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

Genesis 31:7 (References God): And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

Isaiah 4:1 (Parallel theme): And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

Isaiah 3:6 (Parallel theme): When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand:

Acts 19:12 (Parallel theme): So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Job 19:3 (Parallel theme): These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.