

Zephaniah 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Analysis

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth (בַּקְשׁוּ אֶת־יְהוָה כָּל־עֲנִוֵי הָאָרֶץ baqshu et-YHWH kol-anvei ha'aretz)—A threefold 'seek' follows: seek the LORD, seek righteousness, seek meekness. The 'meek' (anvei) are not weak but those who have submitted to God's authority.

Which have wrought his judgment—Those who have already obeyed God's mishpat (justice/judgment) are called to intensify their pursuit. **It may be ye shall be hid** (אִי־יִסְתָּרוּ ulai tissateru)—'Perhaps you will be hidden.' No presumption, only hope grounded in God's character. This echoes Noah 'hidden' in the ark (Genesis 7:16) and the Passover 'covering' (Exodus 12:13)—salvation is by divine hiding, not human merit.

Historical Context

The 'meek of the earth' likely refers to the faithful remnant who hadn't bowed to Baal during Manasseh's reign (2 Kings 21:1-16). God preserved a remnant through Babylon's invasion (2 Kings 25:12, Jeremiah 39:10), literally 'hiding' them in exile.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes seeking 'righteousness and meekness' from the self-righteousness of religious performance?
2. How does the 'perhaps' (ulai) balance genuine hope with appropriate humility before God's sovereign judgment?
3. Who are the 'meek of the earth' today—those whom God might 'hide' when judgment comes?

Interlinear Text

אֶשׁ־רָ	הָאֶרֶץ	עֲנֵי־יָ	כָּל־	יְהוָה:	אֶת־	בִּקְשׁ־וּ
Seek	of the earth	all ye meek	of the LORD'S			Seek
H834	H776	H6035	H3605	H3068	H853	H1245
עֲנֵי־הָ	בִּקְשׁ־וּ	צֶדֶק	בִּקְשׁ־וּ	פָּעַל־וּ	מִשְׁפָּט־וּ	
meekness	Seek	righteousness	Seek	which have wrought	his judgment	
H6038	H1245	H6664	H1245	H6466	H4941	
יְהוָה:	אֵף	בִּי־וָ	תָּסִי־תֵרֵ וְ	אֲוִלִּי		
of the LORD'S	anger	in the day	ye shall be hid	it may be		
H3068	H639	H3117	H5641	H194		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 76:9 (Judgment): When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

Psalms 105:4 (References Lord): Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

Psalms 22:26 (References Lord): The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Jonah 3:9 (Parallel theme): Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

Jeremiah 39:18 (References Lord): For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.

Hosea 10:12 (Righteousness): Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Psalms 57:1 (Parallel theme): Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

Proverbs 18:10 (Righteousness): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

2 Peter 3:18 (References Lord): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 5:5 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.