

In the King James Version verse 6 ends with the words "keep not silence," and verse 7 begins with "and give Him no rest." In the American Standard Version these phrases are rendered "take ye no rest" and "give Him no rest." The Revised margin says under "rest" in verse 7: "Heb. silence." Actually the Hebrew means "do not be quiet" and "give Him no quiet." The mention of rest is a free rendering in English which presents the idea fairly well but can easily lead to misunderstanding. Surely it is better here to translate the Hebrew literally. It is God's desire that many people keep constantly reminding Him of His glorious promises and give Him no time of silence on the matter until He shall actually fulfill them.

The Place of Prayer

This brings up the whole question of prayer. God has ordained the full progress of the world and knows the end from the beginning; yet He has ordained that prayer is to play a real part in His economy. He does things in answer to prayer -- even things which He has specifically promised, and which He has declared to be certain of accomplishment. It is His will that His people should constantly cultivate toward Him an attitude of trust and communion and should call upon Him to fulfill the great promises He has given. These two verses exhort God's people continually to remind Him of His great promises.

Verse 8 lays its stress on the certainty of the answer to the prayers which God desires His people to make. He wants us to pray in accordance with His will. 1 John 5:14 tells us: "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, he heareth us." We are to ask in faith when we know that what we desire is in accordance with the will of God. He has sworn by His right hand and by the arm of His strength; nothing could make more certain the fulfillment of His promise.

In verses 8 and 9 the stress is again on the contrast between the future days of plenty in the land which God has promised to bless and those of misery and abandonment which are to continue during the exilic period and during much of the present period of dispersion. No longer will