Zechariah 14:12-21

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 14:12–21*** (ESV)  
**12** And this shall be the plague with which YHWH will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. **13** And on that day a great panic from YHWH shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. **14** Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. **15** And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps. **16** Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. **17** And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, there will be no rain on them. **18** And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which YHWH afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. **19** This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. **20** And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “Holy to YHWH.” And the pots in the house of YHWH shall be as the bowls before the altar. **21** And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to YHWH of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of YHWH of hosts on that day.

1. Summarize the first part of this last oracle, which began in Zech 12:1.
2. Describe the plague that will come upon the people who wage war on Jerusalem. Who and what are affected by the plague? Compare to Zech 12:4.
3. What could be the source of such a plague? Refer also to 2 Kings 19:32-36.
4. What do you think causes the “great panic”? What happens in that panic? Compare also Hag 2:21-22 and Zech 11:9.
5. Zech 14:14 is ambiguous. It could be translated “Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem” OR “Even Judah will fight against Jerusalem.” Which do you think it is? Review Zech 12:1-9 as well, especially in regard to Zech 12:2.
6. Look at the great battle prophesied in Ezek 39:1-10. Could this be the same battle as in Zechariah 14? What similarities to you see? How does
7. Who will be keeping Sukkot? Why do you think this particular festival is the one that is mentioned? What else will they do in Jerusalem?
8. What is the consequence regarding rain if the people do not go to Jerusalem for worship during Sukkot? How is that connected to Sukkot? And what does it really mean? Is it literal or symbolic?
9. Look at Dt 28:1-14 (blessing for obedience) and Dt 28:15-24 (curse for disobedience). How would compare and contrast this Deuteronomy chapter with Zech 14?
10. Why do you think Egypt is specified by name in Zech 14:18-19?
11. In Zech 14:18b it says there will be “the plague with which YHWH afflicts the nations” when they do not go to Jerusalem to worship at Sukkot. Is this different than “no rain”? Could it refer back to the plague that killed so many during the prior battle? What do you think this plague refers to? Also compare to the continuation of the curses passage for disobedience in Dt 28:25-29.
12. Read Isaiah 60 which seems to talk about this future time when all the nations will worship the King. What similarities do you see with Zechariah’s final oracle (Zech 12-14?
13. Sukkot symbolically anticipates the future event when the Messiah will establish his earthly kingdom. It is interesting that in Zech 14 we see the nations are **required** to keep Sukkot DURING the actual period of time which it foreshadowed. If all the nations (Gentiles) are going to be **required** to keep Sukkot in the future, and Scripture clearly commands God’s people to keep Sukkot in the Hebrew Scriptures, what would that seem to imply about God’s expectations for his people keeping Sukkot today?
14. “Holy to YHWH” is inscribed on the bells of the horses. What does this phrase mean? Why would it be on the bells of horses? Look at Ex 28:36-37.
15. In Zech 14:20 “the pots shall be as bowls before the altar”. This is hard to understand with doing some research on the Hebrew words used for “pot” and “bowl”. What do you think this means? (Hint: look at Ex 27:3 for usage of the pots.)
16. All the pots in Jerusalem will be “holy for YHWH”. What is significant about that?
17. In Zech 14:21, what is the Hebrew word which the ESV translates as “trader”? What do you think this final statement in Zechariah means?
18. Do you think “on that day” in Zech 14:20 and 14:21 refers to one particular 24-hour day, or to a more general period of time?
19. How would you summarize this section (Zech 14:12-21)?
20. What does this passage say to you, personally?