Zechariah 2:6-13

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 2:6–13*** (ESV)  
**6** Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares YHWH. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares YHWH. **7** Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. **8** For thus said YHWH of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: **9** “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that YHWH of hosts has sent me. **10** Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares YHWH. **11** And many nations shall join themselves to YHWH in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that YHWH of hosts has sent me to you. **12** And YHWH will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” **13** Be silent, all flesh, before YHWH, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

1. This section is seems to be separate from the previous vision. It is often called an “oracle” rather than a vision. Why? What is an oracle?

An oracle is a communication from a deity to a human. The message could be communicated via a person who is a spokesman (often called a “oracle” as well), or directly from God, or via an angel.

1. We talked about looking for repetitive words, phrases and themes in prophetic books. What do we see in these verses that are similar to what we’ve seen before in Zechariah? What, if anything, new is being told to us in each case?

* He people are the “apple of his eye) (2:8)

He is jealous for his people (1:14) and will comfort them (1:17). This tells us more of His feelings – that His people are **very precious** to Him.

* He will plunder the nations (2:9)

Cast down the horns of the nations in 1:21. But we are now told that His people will plunder them!

* He will dwell in your midst (2:10)

Same as in 1:16 where His house shall be built in Jerusalem; we are now explicitly told He will dwell in their midst

* He will again choose Jerusalem (2:12)

Same as in 1:17. The other phrases above give more definition to what this looks like.

1. In the previous visions (for example 1:17 and 2:4-5), it was promised that Jerusalem would again be a safe place for God’s people. Has that ever happened? So when was, or will, these prophesies be fulfilled?

Partial fulfillment happened after the Maccabee Revolt in 167 BC. The people of Israel then returned to their land in greater numbers than ever before. And for a short while they enjoyed peace and freedom in the Land. But it was partial, and temporary.

Jerusalem has truly never been a safe place for God’s people; therefore it is reasonable to conclude that these prophesies will not be fulfilled in their fullness until the end times… when Messiah returns. So these visions must have the end times in mind.

1. Verse 2:6 says to “flee from the north”. What is in the north?

Babylon is to the north. This is made clear in 2:7.

1. Why does he refer to their dwelling with the “daughter of Babylon” rather than just “Babylon”?

**The “daughter” is the precious offspring… that which the parent holds dear.** Is not about dwelling in a place, but about dwelling with what that place holds dear – the worldly, pagan, idolatrous practices that are so integrated with their lives. On the surface level, they are living in the land that once was Babylon but is now part of Persia, conquered by Cyrus and now ruled by Darius. At another level (future fulfillment), “daughter” hints that this could symbolically refer to any place of exile or place where his people are dwelling in a pagan land. It also hints at the people living as an integral part of the pagan Babylonian culture rather than just in a specific location.

1. Compare Zech 2:6 with the prophesy of Isaiah in Is 48:20. When was this prophesy given? Did the people heed the warning? Who eventually invaded the land shortly after Isaiah’s prophesy?

***Isaiah 48:20*** (ESV)  
**20** Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, “YHWH has redeemed his servant Jacob!”

Isaiah prophesied 750-700BC up to and after the time that the house of Israel (the northern Kingdom) was taken over by Assyria.

1. Compare Zech 2:6 with the prophesy of Jeremiah in Jer 50:8 and Jer 51:6. When was this prophesy given? Did the people heed the warning? Who eventually invaded the land shortly after Jeremiah’s prophesy?

***Jeremiah 50:8*** (ESV)  
**8** “Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as male goats before the flock.

***Jeremiah 51:6*** (ESV)  
**6** “Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of YHWH’s vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.

Jeremiah prophesied 629-587BC, just before Judah was taken over by Babylon.

1. Compare Zech 2:6 with the prophesy of Revelation 18:1-4. Note that this in “end times” prophesy, and here Babylon seems to symbolize both Rome and the false “institutional religion” that has developed out of Rome (including institutional or “non-believing” Protestantism and as well as “non-believing” Catholicism). Who is to flee from “Babylon” in Revelation and why?

***Revelation 18:1–4*** (ESV)  
**1** After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. **2** And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. **3** For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” **4** Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

All God’s people are to flee to escape His coming judgment.

1. In view of all these other prophesies about “fleeing Babylon”, how do you now see the prophesy of Zech 2:6-7? What is the “daughter of Babylon”? Who is to flee from her, and why?

Babylon symbolizes all those places of “pagan or false religion” where God’s people are intermingled. This includes Rome and the falseness of religion that develops from there. It is where the dominant culture of a place is full of pagan and ungodly practices, and yet is commonly accepted as right. All God’s people are to flee from those places and return to him with their hearts and their actions. It is not about leaving a place as much as leaving a practice. We are to flee from being a part of our pagan culture. We must flee to escape His coming judgment. This includes us!

1. So in summary, who is this oracle directed to? Who is supposed to flee? Consider the different “levels” of fulfillment (near future, end times, etc.).

God’s people who are in exile in Babylon. On the surface, this would refer to those who remained there (the ones that didn’t move back to Judea to rebuild the temple). But on another level, it refers to all of Israel (both houses of Israel and Judah) who have been scattered over the world both Assyria and Babylon both. And as we see in Revelation 18:4, this seems to include Gentile believers as well when Babylon is used as a metaphor for what seems to refer to institutional religion.

1. Zech 2:8 is one of the most hard to understand verses in all of Zechariah, because of the phrase which is literally translated **“after glory he sent me to the nations”**. Note that the ESV says “after his glory” but that that is not accurate, since there is no “his” in the Hebrew text. The Hebrew just says “after glory”. The main question is, “Does the “**me”** refer to Zechariah, the angel of YHWH, the Messiah…??? Notice that the same word “glory” was just used in Zech 2:5.

In this and the following verses it is hard to know where quotation marks occur, and who is saying what. There are potentially three speakers: YHWH, Zechariah, and what seems to be the Messiah. Read this carefully and try to decide where the quotation marks would go, and who the speakers are.

Picture Zechariah saying all these words, as a spokesperson (prophet) through whom YHWH is speaking words of truth and prophesy. There are MANY ways to break this down, and different English translations have different approaches. Below are two possibilities.

**Option 1:**

*Zechariah:* “For thus said YHWH of hosts, after glory he sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:”

*YHWH:* “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them.”

*Zechariah:*  “Then you will know that YHWH of hosts has sent me.”

*YHWH:* “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst”, *declares YHWH*. “And many nations shall join themselves to YHWH in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst.”

*Zechariah:* “And you shall know that the YHWH hosts has sent me to you. And YHWH will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before YHWH, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”

Problems with Option 1: A) Not sure what “after glory” means. Zechariah is being sent to nations “after glory”. It could be translated “with heaviness”. B) It’s not clear how this was fulfilled in Zechariah’s day so that the people would know that YHWH sent him. C). It seems a bit odd that YHWH would refer to himself as YHWH and then immediately afterwards with personal pronouns “my” and “I”.

**Option 2:**

This could be a prophetic quote by the Messiah. In Zech 2:5 we see that YHWH will be “glory” in the midst of Jerusalem again. When will this happen? When Messiah returns. He will return “with glory” in that Day of YHWH, when the last trumpet sounds! “After glory” could refer to after the time when Messiah returns, when glory again fills the temple, and Messiah assumes his reign as king. What is the first thing he will do? He will gather his people and wage war against the nations, bringing YHWH’s judgment upon them. They will plunder the nations! In this case we have the following:

*Zechariah:* For thus said YHWH of hosts:

*Messiah:* After glory he [YHWH] sent me [Messiah] to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye. Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that YHWH of hosts has sent me.”

*Messiah quotes YHWH:* “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst”, *declares YHWH*.

*Messiah:* “And many nations shall join themselves to YHWH in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the YHWH hosts has sent me to you. And YHWH will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

*Zechariah:* Be silent, all flesh, before YHWH, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

In this case words Zechariah are speaking to the people are all the prophetic words being spoken by the Messiah about what will happen when He returns. To me, this option makes most sense.

1. In Zech 2:9, who is plundering whom?

God’s people will plunder the nations that have previously plundered Israel.

1. Has this prophesy about plundering the nations happened yet? Often prophesy is fulfilled partly in the near future, and more fully at a later date. What part of this prophesy was fulfilled shortly after Zechariah’s time? (Hint – research about the Maccabean Revolt.)

Israel conquered the Seleucid (Greek empire) in 167 BC. The temple was rebuilt and even expanded under Herod the Great. Jerusalem became a thriving city again.

But not everything was fulfilled. This glory was short lived. The final and ultimate fulfillment is yet to come.

1. Who is the “daughter of Zion” in Zech 2:10 and why is that term used? Look at Lamentations 2 where the “daughter of Zion” seems to be used with the same meaning as “daughter of Judah” and “daughter of my people”.

Note that daughter is singular not plural. While it is possible this could refer “collectively” to the people of Israel, when compared with the usage in Lamentations it would seem to refer to a place – something that was destroyed (in Lamentations).

Lam 2 shows talks about the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and seems to speak of the Jerusalem (and the temple) as the daughter of Zion, the daughter of Judah, and the daughter of my people. In each case it seems that “daughter” identifies that which is most precious – Jerusalem (and the temple). Jerusalem and the temple was the “prized possession” of the people of Israel, the land of Judah, and the mountain of Zion.

Like with the “daughter of Babylon”, **the “daughter” is the precious offspring… that which the parent holds dear.** In this case, what is so dear and so precious to Zion? Zion is the mountain on which ancient Jerusalem was located, the place where the temple stood; the place where the very presence of YHWH dwelled.

1. In Zech 2:11 the word used for “nations” is Hebrew “**goy** (plural **goyim**)”. What does this mean? How does this verse refer to us?

Many Gentile nations will join with Yahuah and become His people. This refers to Gentile nations. Most of us fall into this category.

1. Also note that Zech 2:11 says that the **goyim** (many nations) “shall be my people”. This is strong covenant terminology, as seen in the covenant God made with His people in Lev 26:9-13 and the marriage covenant Ruth made with Boaz in Ruth 1:16-17. Now read the prophesy about the new covenant in Jer 31:31-33 and Jer 32:37-41. How does Zech 2:11 relate to the new covenant spoken about by Jeremiah? Do we see signs of this prophesy beginning to be fulfilled today?

***Leviticus 26:9,12***I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

***Ruth 1:16***But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

***Jeremiah 31:31–33***“Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares YHWH. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares YHWH: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

***Jeremiah 32:37–41***Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

There seems to be a direct correlation with Zech 2:11 and the new covenant spoken about in Jeremiah. They are one and the same. As we know the new covenant was initiating by the Messiah at His first coming. While it seems, based on Jeremiah, that all things related to the full establishment of the new covenant are not yet complete, we can see that the new convent is in the process of being fulfilled. Today, there are probably more Gentile believers than Jewish believers, so this end time prophesy of Zech 2:11 is beginning to see fulfillment already.

1. Think about the wording of Zech 2:12: “YHWH will inherit Judah as his portion”. Consider also Exod 4:22 and Exod 13:2. What do you think it means, especially in light of the context of the previous verse referring to “all the nations”?

Exodus 4:22   
Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says YHWH, Israel is my firstborn son,

Exodus 13:2   
“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

It reminds me of Exod 4:22 where God says Israel is His firstborn son, and then later in Exod 13:2 when He says all the firstborn of His people belongs to Him.

Out of all the nations that will come to Him, Israel is special. He chose Israel from the beginning. Like the firstborn of all that would be called to Him.

1. Who is to “be silent” in Zech 2:13, and why? Look at Zephaniah 1:7-18.

***Zephaniah 1:7–14*Be silent** before YHWH God! **For the day of YHWH is near;** YHWH has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of YHWH’s sacrifice— “I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud. “On that day,” declares YHWH, “a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and **I will punish the men who are complacent**, those who say in their hearts, ‘YHWH will not do good, nor will he do ill.’ Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” **The great day of YHWH is near, near and hastening fast.**

Be silent, for the day of YHWH is near… that will be a terrible day of judgment. YHWH is about to reverse the prosperity of the nations and plundering of Israel.

1. How would you summarize this oracle? What effect would hearing these words have had on the people in Zechariah’s time?

Come back to Jerusalem, my people! Judgment day is coming! Don’t be on the wrong side! Do something to get out of your sinful living situation. God’s people will be victorious in the end, and the whole will world will be made to recognize that. So change your ways now before it is too late.

1. How do we see ourselves in this passage? What does Yahuah want you to learn about HIM? What does He want you to learn about YOURSELF?