Zechariah 14:1-5

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 14:1–5***   
**1** Behold, a day is coming for YHWH, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. **2** For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then YHWH will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. **4** On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. **5** And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then YHWH my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

1. Summarize the first part of this oracle, found in Zech 12-13.
2. Who is the “you” in Zech 14:1? What does it mean that “the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst”? See also Joel 1:15.
3. When is this battle against Jerusalem going to take place?
4. Look at Mt 24:36-42. How might this relate to Zech 14:2?
5. How might Rev 11:1-13 relate to this Zechariah passage?
6. How might Luke 21:20-28 relate to this Zechariah passage?
7. With Zech 14:3, we see there is actually a twofold purpose in “gathering the nations against Jerusalem”. What are the two purposes? Where have we seen this twofold purpose before in Zechariah?
8. How might Joel 3:1-3 relate to this Zechariah passage?
9. What is the symbolic imagery of Zech 14:4? Note that the Jewish view of YHWH leading his people though the desert for 40 years after the exodus from Egypt was that his two great legs were the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud.
10. Why do you think YHWH was not standing on Mt Zion, the place of his temple?
11. What direction is the Mount of Olives from the temple? Look at Ezek 11:16-23 and Ezek 43:1-5. How are these passages connected to Zech 14:4?
12. Look at Acts 1:6-12. Where was the last place on earth that Yeshua was before he ascended to heaven. How will return? Where will return?
13. A new valley is formed from the Mt of Olives. What is the purpose of that valley? See Zech 14:4-5.
14. Where or what is Azal?
15. When was Uzziah king? Look also at Amos 1:1. Who is actually being addressed in Zech 14:5 and who actually fled from the earthquake when Uzziah was king?
16. Zech 14:5b says, “**Then YHWH my God will come**, and all the holy ones with him.” How do we understand this in view of the fact that YHWH seems to have already come a couple verses earlier? What is the Hebrew word translated as “then”?
17. YHWH comes with his **qedoshim** “holy ones”. Who might this term refer to? Consider for example Dt 33:1-4, Ps 89:5-7, 1 Thes 3:11-13, and Jude 14.
18. Consider further the possible identity of the “holy ones” in Zech 14:5 by looking at 1 Thes 4:16-17.
19. I Thes 4:16-17 (above) speaks of the Messiah’s return when the trumpet sounds. Read Matt 24:31 and also 1 Cor 15:51-52, which specifically says “at the last trumpet.” With that in mind, read Rev 11:12-18. What similarities do you see with Zech 14:1-5? What is a possible sequence of events related to Yeshua’s return?
20. How would you summarize this section (Zech 14:1-5)?
21. What does this passage say to you, personally?