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?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. Verse 2:6 says to “flee from the north”. What is in the north?
5. Why does he refer to their dwelling with the “daughter of Babylon” rather than just “Babylon”?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. 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.).
11. 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.

1. In Zech 2:9, who is plundering whom?
2. 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.)
3. 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”.
4. In Zech 2:11 the word used for “nations” is Hebrew “**goy** (plurah **goyim**)”. What does this mean? How does this verse refer to us?
5. 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?
6. 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”?
7. Who is to “be silent” in Zech 2:13, and why? Look at Zephaniah 1:7-18.
8. How would you summarize this oracle? What effect would hearing these words have had on the people in Zechariah’s time?
9. 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?