

Zechariah's Prophecy to the Remnant—The Rejected King Enthroned (c. 517–516 BC)

Zechariah 12–14

The Nations of the Earth Assemble to Attack Jerusalem (Eschatological)

12:1 An oracle. The word of Yahweh concerning Israel. "Thus declares Yahweh, who stretches out *the* heavens, founds *the* earth, and forms the spirit of humankind in its midst:

2 'Look, I *am* going to make Jerusalem a cup of reeling for all the surrounding nations; it will also be against Judah in the siege against Jerusalem.

3 And then on that day I will make Jerusalem a stone weight for all the peoples. All those lifting it up will grievously hurt themselves, and all the nations of the earth will assemble against it.

4 On that day,' declares Yahweh, 'I will strike every horse with confusion, and the one riding it with madness; but over the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, and I will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

5 And the clans of Judah will say to themselves, "The inhabitants of Jerusalem are a strength to us, through Yahweh of hosts, their God."

6 " 'On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a pan of fire among *sticks of* wood, and like a torch of fire among stalks of grain, and they will devour to *the* right and to *the* left all the surrounding peoples, and Jerusalem will be inhabited again *in* its place, in Jerusalem.

7 And Yahweh will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be exalted over Judah.

8 On that day Yahweh will put a shield around the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who stumbles among them on that day will be like David, and the house of David *will be* like God, like the angel of Yahweh, before them.

Israel Weeps Over the One They Pierced (Eschatological)

9 And then on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations coming against Jerusalem.

10 " 'I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, and they will look to me whom they pierced, and they shall mourn over him, as one wails over an only child, and they will grieve bitterly over him as *one* grieves bitterly over a firstborn. [[John 19:37](#); [Rev 1:7](#)]

11 On that day the wailing will be great in Jerusalem, like the wailing for Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 And the land shall mourn, each clan by itself; the clan of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the clan of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

13 the clan of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the clan of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves;

14 and all those clans remaining, each clan by itself, and their wives by themselves."

Israel Cleansed of Sin, Idols, and False Prophets (Eschatological)

13:1 " 'On that day a well will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and from impurity.

2 And then, on that day,' declares Yahweh of hosts, 'I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and also the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness I will banish from the land.

3 And then, if anyone prophesies again, his father and his mother who bore him will say to him, "You shall not live, because you have spoken a lie in the name of Yahweh!" And his father and his mother who bore him will pierce him through when he prophesies.

4 And then on that day, each of the prophets will be ashamed because of his vision when he was prophesying, and they will not put on a cloak of hair in order to deceive,

5 but he will say, "I *am* not a prophet; I am a tiller of the soil, for a man has acquired me since my youth."

6 And someone shall say to him, "What *are* these wounds between your arms?" and he will say, "Those I have received *in* the house of *the ones who love me.*" "

The Shepherd Smitten, a Remnant Spared (Historical and Eschatological)

7 "O sword, awake against my shepherd,
against *the man who is* my associate,"
declares Yahweh of hosts.
"Strike the shepherd,
so that the sheep may be scattered, [[Matt 26:31](#); [Mark 14:27](#)]
and I will turn my hand against the small *ones*."

8 And then in all the land," declares Yahweh,
"two thirds will be cut off and perish,
and one third will be left alive in it.

9 And I will bring the *remaining* third into the fire,
and I will refine them like *one* refines silver,
and I will test them like *one* tests gold.

They will call my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, ‘They are my people,’
and they will say, ‘Yahweh is my God.’”

The Day of the Battle for Jerusalem (Eschatological)

14:1 Look! A day is coming for Yahweh, when your plunder will be divided in your midst.

2 I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, and they will loot the houses, and the women will be raped; half of the city will go into exile, but the remainder of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then Yahweh will go forth and fight against those nations, like when he fights on a day of battle.

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on *the* east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in half, from east to west, *by* a very great valley; and half of the mountain will withdraw toward the north, and the other half toward the south.

5 And you will flee *by* the valley of my mountains, because the valley of *the* mountains will reach to Azal, and you will flee like you fled from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. And Yahweh my God will come, *and* all *the* holy ones with him.

The Establishment of the Messianic Kingdom (Eschatological)

6 And then on that day there will not be light, the precious things will congeal.

7 There shall be continuous day—it is known to Yahweh—not day and not night; and at evening time there will be light.

8 And then on that day, living waters will flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea, and the other half to the western sea; it will happen *both* in the summer and in the winter.

9 And Yahweh will be king over all the earth; on that day Yahweh will be one and his name one.

10 All the land will be transformed into a desert plateau from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But it will rise up high and it will stay in its place from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of *the* former gate, up to the Corner Gate and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses.

11 And they will dwell in it, and there will be no more ban imposed, and Jerusalem will dwell in security.

The Destruction of Israel’s Enemies (Eschatological)

12 And this will be the plague *with* which Yahweh will strike all the peoples that fight against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they *are* standing on their feet; their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

13 And then on that day a great panic from Yahweh will fall on them, and they will seize one another’s hand, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of another.

14 And Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—gold and silver, and garments in great abundance.

15 Like this plague will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, and the donkey, and every kind of animal in those camps.

The King is Worshipped by the Nations During the Millennium (Eschatological)

16 And then every survivor from all those nations coming against Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship *the* king, Yahweh of hosts, and celebrate the Feast of Booths.

17 And then whoever of the clans of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the king, Yahweh of hosts, it will not rain on them.

18 And if the clan of Egypt will not go up and come in, on them will be that plague Yahweh inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

20 On that day there will be *inscribed* on the bells of the horses, “Holy to Yahweh.” And the cooking pots in the house of Yahweh will be *holy* like the sacrificial basins before the altar.

21 And every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to Yahweh of hosts, and all those who sacrifice will come and will take from them, and will cook in them, and there will be no longer a trader in the house of Yahweh of hosts on that day.

The Temple Completed (March 12, 515 BC)

Ezra 6:14b–18

14b They finished building by the command of the God of Israel and by the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and King Artaxerxes of Persia.

15 This house was completed on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 And the Israelites, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

17 And they offered during the dedication of this house of God one hundred young bulls, two hundred young rams, four hundred lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering for Israel *according to* the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 Then they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their sections for the work of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses.

Passover Celebrated (April 21–27, 515 BC)

Ezra 6:19–22

19 On the fourteenth day of the first month the returned exiles observed the Passover feast.

20 For the priests and Levites together had consecrated themselves; all of them were clean. And they slaughtered the Passover sacrifice for all of the returned exiles, for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.

21 The Israelites who returned from the exile and all those who separated themselves from the uncleanness of the nations of the earth to seek Yahweh the God of Israel, ate.

22 With joy they celebrated the festival of unleavened bread *for* seven days, because Yahweh had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them in order to help them with the work of their hands on the house of the God of Israel.

He Heals the Brokenhearted (c. May 515 BC)

Psalm 147

- 1 Praise Yah.
For *it is* good to sing praises *to* our God;
for *it is* pleasant; praise is fitting.
- 2 Yahweh *is* building Jerusalem;
he gathers *the* scattered ones of Israel.
- 3 *He is* the one who heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 *He counts the* number of the stars;
he gives names to all of them.
- 5 Great *is* our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is unlimited.
- 6 Yahweh helps the afflicted up;
he brings the wicked down to *the* ground.
- 7 Sing to Yahweh with thanksgiving;
sing praises to our God with lyre,
- 8 who covers *the* heavens with clouds,
who provides rain for the earth,
who causes grass to grow on the mountains.
- 9 *He gives to the* animal its food,
and to the young ravens that cry.
- 10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
he takes no pleasure in the legs of the man.
- 11 Yahweh takes pleasure in those who fear him,
the ones who hope for his loyal love.
- 12 Laud Yahweh, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
- 13 for he strengthens the bars of your gates.
He blesses your children within you;
- 14 *he makes your* border peaceful;
he satisfies you with *the* finest of wheat.
- 15 *He sends out his* command to *the* earth;
his word runs swiftly.
- 16 *He gives snow* like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes;
- 17 *he throws his* hail like crumbs.
Who can stand before his cold?
- 18 He sends out his word and melts them;
he blows his breath, the water flows.
- 19 *He declares his* word to Jacob,
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.
- 20 He has not done so for any nation,
and they do not know *his* ordinances.
Praise Yah.