Zechariah 14:10-21 – The Nations Worship God

The first nine verses of Zechariah chapter 14 spoke of nations fighting against Jerusalem and wreaking havoc. But then God fought for Jerusalem. On that day, there would be no sun or moon but there would be light around the clock. Living waters would flow out of Jerusalem continuously. Yahweh would be king over all the earth. God was going to shake things up.

Read Zechariah 14:10-15.

In verse 10, ESV, KJV and NASB have "plain" while NIV has "Arabah". "Arabah" is a transliteration of the Hebrew and is the name of a region along the Jordan River. Sometimes the Hebrew word is translated as "plain". What is described in verse 10? What is the significance of this event? The Gate of Benjamin would have been on the north wall of Jerusalem. The location of the former gate (or first gate) is uncertain. It may have been the main gate on the eastern wall. The corner gate was located in the northwestern wall. The Tower of Hananel was on the north wall. The king's winepresses are assumed to have been located in the south part of the city. (14:10)

In verse 11, what would be true of Jerusalem? What is the time frame for the fulfillment of this prophecy? (14:11)

Verse 12 explains why Jerusalem would dwell in security? What did God promise to do to all the people who wage war against Jerusalem? The theme of God fighting for Jerusalem and protecting Jerusalem has occurred a number of times in Zechariah. In verse 13, what else happens to those who wage war against Jerusalem? (14:12-13)

In verse 14, ESV, KJV, NASB and NIV all have "fight at Jerusalem". ESV has a note that the phrase could be "fight against Jerusalem". Some other translations have "fight against". This is similar to 12:2-5 where some understand that Judah initially fought against Jerusalem but then repented when they saw God helping Jerusalem. Which translation do you think is better, "fight at" or "fight against"? (14:14)

In verse 15, what happens to the animals in the camps of the enemies of Jerusalem? (14:15)

Read Zechariah 14:16-21.

Some people of the nations will survive the events of 14:1-15. What two things will these people of the nations do each year? Why do you think that only the Feast of Booths was mentioned and not the Passover or the Feast of Weeks? (14:16)

What will happen to the families which do not go up each year to Jerusalem to worship Yahweh? (14:17)

What will happen to the family of Egypt if they do not go up to Jerusalem? What will happen to the nation that does not go to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Booths? Leviticus 23:42 says of the Feast of Booths that "all native Israelites shall dwell in booths". It is a strange concept to think that all the nations of the world would be required to keep the Feast of Booths. Is this something that will literally happen or is there a symbolic meaning to this? (14:18)

Verse 19 emphasizes the fact that Egypt and all the nations will be punished if they do not keep the Feast of Booths. Why do you think that Egypt was singled out? Why did God require the Israelites to live in booths during the Feast of Booths? (14:19)

Exodus 28:31-38 talks about what Aaron the high priest was to wear. Aaron wore a robe with bells on it and he wore a turban with a gold plate fastened to it with the words "Holy to Yahweh". What is the significance of the horses wearing bells with the inscription "Holy to Yahweh"? What is the significance of the pots in the temple being like the bowls before the alter? (14:20)

In verse 21, every pot in Judah and Jerusalem will be holy to Yahweh. What is the result of every pot being holy? (14:21)

In verse 21, ESV has "trader" with the note "or Canaanite". KJV, NASB and NIV have "Canaanite". The book of Zechariah closes with the statement that there will no longer be a trader (or Canaanite) in the house of Yahweh on that day. It seems like an odd closing to the book. What does this statement mean? (14:21)

What are your impressions from the book of Zechariah?