

Zechariah 14:1-7 – How does God fight his people’s enemies?

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Chilton, Henry, Geneva, JFB, Poole, Moore, Phillips, INT, Delitzsch, Barnes, Trapp Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: So Jesus was sacrificed with the sword. He severed the wicked, killing 2/3 of the Jews. He secured the remnant (余民) – true believers- through their trials. Now we have learned much about Jesus being sacrificed on the cross, but how would the wicked be killed and the remnant secured? This is what you will hear from God today.

Our headings are:

God punishes rebellious (叛逆的) Israel using foreign nations

God preserves (保守) Christians by defeating the foreign nations

God provides blessings for Christians after struggling with Israel and the nations

Our goals are: That seeing the security God gave his church, you will fight against sin in the world with determination决心.

God punishes rebellious Israel using foreign nations

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil (财物 , 掠物) will be divided in your midst.

1. God requires special attention to what he is saying, so he starts with “behold.”

2. God warns that the “day of Jehovah” is coming.

This phrase refers to God’s coming judgment on the wicked and to his preservation of the godly.

You see God’s intention to preserve his covenant people when he used his covenant (约 , 圣约) name: Jehovah.

And in order to preserve his people, God must necessarily destroy the wicked.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

3. So who are the wicked God will destroy? He will destroy Israel, his former people, who threatened his new people.

Micah 1:3 For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And tread on the high places of the earth. 4 The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place. 5 All this is for the transgression (过犯) of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel...

God had threatened this before and done it, but never to the extent (程度) of the Romans came in AD70.

2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled (被抢夺), And the women ravished (被玷污). Half of the city shall go into captivity (被掳), But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

4. What are the details of Israel’s destruction:

a. The city - Jerusalem – the one that Israel held dear, will be taken. Yes, the Romans, who had nations under their control, and who called themselves “Lord of the nations,” will come and take the city. But Rome was under God’s control.

b. The houses of Jerusalem will be rifled– ransacked (被掠夺) and robbed. No one likes strangers rifling through his possessions and Israel surely didn’t like others taking away their possessions. But who can stop God’s judgment?

c. The women will be ravished. Even if you allow your possession to be taken away, who will accept the ravishing of their wives and daughters? But Rome, the enemy of Israel, would act as if they have the license to do whatever they wanted.

d. Half of the people who were not killed became slaves. What nation can survive if half its people were taken away as slaves? And isn’t it true that the ones taken are usually the young and healthy ones?

Jeremiah 4:27 For thus says the LORD: "The whole land shall be desolate (荒凉的) ; Yet I will not make a full end.

e. But God will save a remnant. God always keeps a remnant for his name’s sake!

Jeremiah 30:11 For I am with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.’

These are the ones who will not have to fight for themselves – for they are too weak, for God will do battle for them.

5. Lessons:

a. God will destroy the enemies of his people and he is often pleased to use sinful men as his human tools.

Isaiah 10:6 I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire (烂泥) of the streets.

b. Sometimes even God's people suffer when the wicked are punished, but know that God is sovereign 掌权的, 有主权的.

c. Old Israel was destroyed because of her wickedness; the church is now the new Israel.

Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and **upon the Israel of God.**

Hebrews 12:22 But **you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the **general assembly and church** of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

d. Don't make the same mistakes of old Israel or you will face the same punishment.

God preserves Christians by defeating those foreign nations

3 Then the **LORD will go** forth And **fight against those nations**, As He fights in the day of battle.

1. God will lead the charge (冲锋) against these nations after they destroy Jerusalem.

God will fight like when one fights on the day of battle. This speaks of an intensity (激烈程度) of the fight.

Rome arguably never regained its full prominence (鼎盛, 卓越) after the destruction of Jerusalem.

Revelation 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire **came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**

4 And in that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the **Mount of Olives shall be split in two**, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

2. God will stand on Mt. Olives, a mountain close to Jerusalem, on the east.

Mark 13:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives **opposite the temple**, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

This was not a picture of God's helplessness. This was to see that everything was taking place according to his word.

3. God will split Mt. Olives in two. Josephus testified there were many earthquakes in the 1st century; one literally moved a mountain more than 1 km from its original position.

a. But why will God split Mt. Olives from East to West and move half north and half south?

Symbolism (象征). This is a symbolic removal of the wall of separation (隔断). The picture of a large valley showed that people would have access to Jerusalem from Gentile (外邦人的) lands. We speak of mountains as natural barriers.

Apostle Paul spoke of the removal of the wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles, a fulfillment of God's promise.

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle **wall of separation**,

Isaiah 49:11 I will **make each of My mountains a road**, And My highways shall be elevated.

b. And the fact that this opening of the mountain was a direct work of God shows that God was fighting for his people - like when he separated the waters at the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:14 "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

5 Then you shall **flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal**. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You.

4. God will cause many to flee through the valley he created and get to Azal ("a place of safety"), to be safe.

They will flee like when Judah fled from the great earthquake in the day of Uzziah.

You saw earlier how an earthquake swallowed up the enemy of God's people, and **yet it created a path for God's people**. An amazing miracle of God!

While the large valley was symbolic of the nations having access to God, it was a **literal escape route** for God's people as the Romans came up to destroy Jerusalem. It would have been tough to escape if it were winter, or if they were pregnant (怀孕的), or if they were nursing, or if it were the Sabbath 安息日, but God would save Christians as they went to Pella, east of Jerusalem. (The Romans thought they had captured the Christians in Jerusalem as well and could kill them, but they listened to God and left earlier!) Mt. 24:1-35.

Matthew 24: 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

5. As God's people fled to safety across the Jordan, even east of Mt. Olives, God was with them and they had each other.

Again, you see this was a promise to Christians, as God used his covenant name – Jehovah.

6. Lessons:

a. Every mountain shall be made low...so people would access to the Gospel and church of Jesus Christ. No nation, no religion, no philosophy can stop God's Gospel message.

Isaiah 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

Are you using your opportunity to take this message?

b. And yet, you will remember that this is a supernatural work of God's Holy Spirit. So pray for him to work.

God provides blessings for his people after their struggle

6 It shall come to pass in that day **That there will be no light; The lights will diminish.** 7 It shall be one day **Which is known to the LORD** — Neither day nor night. **But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light.**

1. When the nations will come against Israel, and when the Christians will have to flee from Jerusalem to be safe, it will seem like a bad time...a dark time. It will seem like lights are diminished. After all, there will be sadness, sickness, and suffering -darkness. And the leaders, often symbolized by light, will be few. So there will be darkness in the church when the Romans surround Jerusalem for 3 ½ years. (John in Revelation 11 speaks of the church being like it was dead for 3 ½ years. Daniel 9 described the same event. Jesus preached for 3 ½, the 1st half of the last week. And then a foreign power would come and put an end to sacrificing.)

2. But God will ultimately bring light – leaders and the Gospel; this darkness will not continue forever.

Joy will come in the morning. The sun will rise. Speaking of the glorious future, Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 30:26 Moreover the **light of the moon will be as the light of the sun,** And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise (伤痕) of His people And **heals the stroke of their wound.**

Isaiah 60:19 "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. 20 Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

3. Lessons:

a. No matter how dark times may be in your life – that struggle with that covenant child, the health trouble you just can beat, that frustration with the unbelieving spouse - the Lord is aware, and you will never be destroyed!

b. Not matter how much you see the church struggle today, you must not lose hope. Jesus is the light to bring hope to the nations, as Simeon said. So fight against the darkness in the hearts of your neighbors. Shine the Word of God everywhere you go, starting in your family. The Devil is the king of darkness, but Jesus is the Light of the world.

Conclusion:

Luther, when he came to Zechariah 14, said: "I give up." But I don't think we need to fear this text. There is a consistent flow.

After the Good Shepherd was pierced by the Jewish shepherds and died, God brought judgment on the Jewish shepherds and those who supported them.

After the Jewish shepherds were judged, God then judged the Romans and their armies, just as God judged Nebuchadnezzar who destroyed Judah.

With the enemies controlled, God's people were then free to expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ and bring in the Gentiles! Indeed, it was the dawning of a new day.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Pronounce the Gospel of Jesus everywhere. Don't cower (畏缩) in a corner. This is the light that man needs! This is how the kingdom will expand. Jesus has opened the pathway. He is the way!

2. Pray: Your kingdom come!

3. Remember, Jesus was pierced for you. His blood washed your guilty stains.

Finally, knowing about Jesus, like the Jews did, wasn't enough. You have to trust in his life and death as your life and death. Now that you have heard about him, what is your response? Your entire future depends on it!