

Zechariah 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die (וְיֹאמֶר יְהוָה בְּכָל-הָאָרֶץ נָאכַתְּה בְּיָמָינוּ בָּה וְכָרְתָּהוּ וְגָבָהּ) sobering prophecy: two-thirds of the population will karat (be cut off) and gava (die/perish). This describes apocalyptic tribulation, likely the 'time of Jacob's trouble' (Jeremiah 30:7) or 'great tribulation' (Matthew 24:21) before Messiah's second coming. **But the third shall be left therein**—one-third survive as preserved remnant.

This three-way division recalls Ezekiel 5:2-4 where judgment on Jerusalem involved thirds: burned, struck with sword, scattered (with a small remnant preserved). Zechariah's prophecy is eschatological: during final conflicts surrounding Israel, massive casualties occur, but God preserves a remnant for salvation. This isn't arbitrary destruction but covenant discipline purifying Israel for restoration. The remnant theology pervades Scripture—God always preserves a faithful core through judgment (Romans 11:5: "**Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace**").

Historical Context

Historically, Israel endured massive casualties during Roman sieges (AD 66-70, 132-135), medieval persecutions, and Holocaust (1933-1945). Yet Jews survived, regathering in modern Israel (1948). This verse prophetically describes final

tribulation sufferings before Messiah's kingdom, when yet another two-thirds will perish before Christ returns to deliver the remnant.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's discipline as purposeful (preserving a remnant) rather than arbitrary change your view of suffering?
2. What does 'remnant theology' teach about God's faithfulness even through catastrophic judgment?
3. How should awareness of future tribulation affect current evangelistic urgency toward Jewish people?

Interlinear Text

בְּכָל	וְבָיִת	הִיא	נָאָמֵן	יְהִי	פִּי
H1961	H3605	And it shall come to pass that in all the land	saith	the LORD	parts

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 5:12 (Parallel theme): A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Revelation 16:19 (Parallel theme): And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Isaiah 6:13 (Parallel theme): But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Mark 13:20 (References Lord): And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

Daniel 9:27 (Parallel theme): And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Jeremiah 30:11 (References Lord): For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Matthew 22:7 (Parallel theme): But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Malachi 3:5 (References Lord): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.