

Zechariah 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

Analysis

And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem (וְזֹאת תְּהִיָּה הַמַּגָּפָה אֲשֶׁר יִגַּף יְהוָה אֶת־כָּל־הָעַמִּים) —magephah (plague/stroke) is divine judgment against nations besieging Jerusalem (described in 14:2-3). This is supernatural destruction, not conventional warfare. **Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet**—instant decomposition while still standing, horrifying imagery of divine wrath.

And their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth (וְעֵינֵי תִמְקָנָה בְּחִרְיָהֶן וּלְשׁוֹנָן תִּמְקַךְ בְּפִיהֶם) —maqaq (rot/waste away) affects eyes and tongue specifically—perhaps organs of pride and blasphemy. This recalls Uzziah's instant leprosy for presumption (2 Chronicles 26:19) and Herod's death eaten by worms (Acts 12:23). Some see nuclear warfare imagery; others, direct divine judgment. Either way, this is God's terrifying response to those who attack His city and people.

Historical Context

Zechariah 14:2-3 describes end-times siege when 'all nations' gather against Jerusalem. God intervenes supernaturally, destroying enemies with this plague while delivering Israel. This is parallel to Ezekiel 38-39 (Gog/Magog invasion) where God defends Israel with cosmic judgments. Fulfillment awaits the tribulation period before Christ's millennial reign.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does this graphic judgment teach about God's fierce protection of His covenant people and purposes?
2. How should understanding future divine wrath against God's enemies affect current evangelistic urgency?
3. What does instant physical decay symbolize about the ultimate futility of opposing God?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִי הַיּוֹם אֵתָן H2063 H1961	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H4046	וְאֶשׁ רַחֲמֵי	וְיִגְרֹף H834 H5062
וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H3068	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H853 H3605	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H5971	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H834 H6633
וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H3389	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H4743	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H1320	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H1931 H5975
וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H7272	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H5869	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H4743	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H2356 H3956
וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H4743	וְהָיָה הַפֶּגֶז H6310		

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 12:9 (References Jerusalem): And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Psalms 90:11 (Parallel theme): Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

Zechariah 14:3 (References Lord): Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Deuteronomy 28:59 (References Lord): Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

Deuteronomy 28:22 (References Lord): The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme

burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

Leviticus 26:28 (Parallel theme): Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

Leviticus 26:21 (Parallel theme): And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Leviticus 26:16 (Parallel theme): I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Leviticus 26:24 (Parallel theme): Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

2 Chronicles 21:15 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.