

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 זאת תהִה הַמְגַפֶּה אֲשֶׁר יְהֹוָה אֶת-כָּל-הָעָם (—אֲשֶׁר צְבָאו עַל-יְרוּשָׁלָם)—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 (וְעַיְנֵי תִּמְקַנֵּה בְּחֶרְבָּן וְלִשְׁוֹנוֹ תִּמְקַק בְּפִיכָּם)—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

תְּהִנֵּה הַזֶּאת

H2063

H1961

הַמָּגַפְתָּה

And this shall be the plague

H4046

אָשָׁר

H834

יְגִרְגִּיר

will smite

H5062

יְהֹוָה

wherewith the LORD

H3068

אַתָּה

H853

כָּל

H3605

כָּל

all the people

H5971

אָשָׁר

H834

אָצְבָּא אֶל

that have fought

עַל

H5921

ירֹשֶׁלָם

against Jerusalem

H3389

תְּמַמְּדָן

shall consume away

H4743

בָּשָׁר וְ

Their flesh

H1320

וְהָוָא

H1931

עַמְדָה

while they stand

עַל

H5921

בְּגָלִיל

upon their feet

H7272

עַיִנְיוֹן

and their eyes

H5869

תְּמַמְּדָן

shall consume away

H4743

בְּחִרִיכָה

in their holes

H2356

וְלִשְׁוֹן וְ

and their tongue

H3956

תְּמַמְּדָן

shall consume away

H4743

בְּפִיהָם

in their mouth

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.