

Zechariah 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.

Analysis

And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague—the supernatural plague (verse 12) affecting enemy soldiers also strikes their animals. Five animals listed—horse (war mount), mule (transport), camel (desert travel), donkey (burden-bearing), plus 'all beasts'—indicates comprehensive judgment affecting entire enemy camp's logistics and mobility.

This recalls Exodus plagues affecting Egyptians' livestock (Exodus 9:3-6) while Israelite animals were protected—demonstrating God's discriminating judgment. Enemy armies are completely incapacitated: soldiers dying, animals rotting, logistics collapsing. This ensures total victory without Israel needing superior military force. The mention of 'tents' (enemy encampment) emphasizes that judgment strikes armies while still besieging Jerusalem, preventing retreat or regrouping. God's protection of Jerusalem is absolute and overwhelming.

Historical Context

In ancient warfare, animals were crucial for cavalry, supply lines, transport. Their destruction paralyzes armies. This plague accomplishes what Israel couldn't—complete enemy defeat without protracted battle. It demonstrates that God's deliverance doesn't require human military strength, validating Zechariah 4:6: **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."**

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does judgment extending to animals teach about the comprehensiveness of God's wrath against His enemies?
2. How does this demonstrate God's ability to deliver His people without requiring military superiority?
3. In what ways does modern spiritual warfare involve God striking at 'logistics' (support systems) of evil?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵת לְבָנָה תְּהִלִּה הַיְלֵדָה כְּמַגֵּפָה הַמְּגַפֵּה
H3651 H1961 And so shall be the plague H4046 of the horse H5483 of the mule H6505 of the camel H1581

בְּנֵן וְתִּלְכְּדָה וְרָאשָׁה אֲשֶׁר כְּבָבְבָתָה הַבָּבְבָתָה
and of the ass H3605 and of all the beasts H929 tents H834 H1961 H4264

בְּנֵת בְּנֵי מִזְבֵּחַ כְּמַגֵּפָה הַמְּגַפֵּה כְּזַעֲקָבָה
that shall be in these H1992 And so shall be the plague H4046 H2063

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 14:12 (Parallel theme): 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.

