

Zechariah 14:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem—survivors from enemy armies, spared from the plague (verses 12-15). **Shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles** (עַלְוָת מֶלֶךְ שְׁנָה) (בָּשָׂנָה לְהַשְׁפֵּתָה לְמֶלֶךְ וְהַתְּהִזְבֵּחַ אֶת־חִטָּבָת) annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for chag ha-sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles/Booths), one of three mandatory pilgrimage festivals (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Why Tabernacles? It celebrates harvest thanksgiving and commemorates wilderness wandering—appropriate for Gentiles newly entering covenant relationship, acknowledging dependence on God's provision. It also has eschatological significance: pointing to Messiah 'tabernacling' with humanity (John 1:14, Revelation 21:3). Isaiah 2:2-3 and Micah 4:1-2 prophesy similar Gentile pilgrimage: "**Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD.**" This is millennial kingdom worship where all nations acknowledge Yahweh as King, worshiping at Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Millennial kingdom theology: Christ reigns from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6) with representatives from all nations coming annually to worship. This demonstrates that God's ultimate purpose includes Gentile salvation and incorporation into Israel's worship—fulfilling Abraham's promise that through his seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Gentile nations keeping Feast of Tabernacles teach about Israel's role in millennial worship?
2. How does mandatory annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem demonstrate Christ's visible, centralized reign?
3. In what sense does the church's worship now anticipate this universal, unified millennial worship?

Interlinear Text

כֵּל וְכֵל הַ

H1961

H3605

And it shall come to pass that every one that is left

H3498

מִכֶּל

H3605

מִן כָּל הַ

of all the nations

which came

H1471

בְּאֵל מִן הַגּוֹן

H935

עַל

H5921

יְרוּשָׁלָם

against Jerusalem

H3389

וְעַל

H5927

מִן יְ

H1767

לְהַשְׁתִּפּוֹת בְּשַׁנְּהָה בְּשַׁנְּהָה

to year to year

H8141 H8141

לְהַשְׁתִּפּוֹת בְּשַׁנְּהָה בְּשַׁנְּהָה

to worship

H7812

לְמִלְּגָד

the King

H4428

לְמִלְּגָד

the LORD

H3068

אֶבֶן וְתִזְבְּנָה

of hosts

H6635

וְלֹא גָּדֵל

and to keep

H2287

חַג אֶת מִן הַ

the feast of tabernacles

H853 H2282

H5521

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 66:23 (Worship): And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Revelation 19:16 (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Joel 2:32 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Revelation 11:13 (Parallel theme): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Isaiah 6:5 (Kingdom): Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Acts 15:17 (References Lord): That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Jeremiah 51:57 (Kingdom): And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 46:18 (Kingdom): As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come.

Jeremiah 48:15 (Kingdom): Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

Romans 11:5 (Parallel theme): Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.