

# Zechariah 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

## Analysis

**For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle**—God Himself (asaphti, אֶסְפְּא, "I will gather") orchestrates this climactic conflict. The phrase "**all nations**" (kol-goyim, כּוֹל-גּוֹיִם) indicates universal opposition to God's holy city, fulfilling patterns seen in Psalms 2:1-3 where nations rage against the LORD and His anointed. This isn't random geopolitics but divinely appointed confrontation forcing final resolution between God's kingdom and rebellious humanity.

The horror intensifies: "**the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished**"—graphic depiction of conquest's brutality using standard ancient Near Eastern warfare terminology. The Hebrew ve-nishsheqah (וַעֲנִשְׁשֶׁקָה, ravished) describes sexual violence accompanying military defeat. "**Half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city**"—precise division showing measured judgment. God permits devastation but preserves a remnant, echoing Isaiah's stump theology (Isaiah 6:13) and Paul's remnant doctrine (Romans 11:5).

This darkest-before-dawn scenario sets up verses 3-4's divine intervention. God allows His enemies their moment of seeming victory to magnify His deliverance and demonstrate that salvation comes solely through His intervention, not human strength. The remnant preserved through tribulation becomes the saved community welcoming Messiah's return.

## Historical Context

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This prophecy has seen partial fulfillments throughout history. Babylon's 586 BC conquest, Antiochus Epiphanes' 168 BC defilement, Rome's 70 AD destruction, and Bar Kokhba revolt's 135 AD aftermath all witnessed nations attacking Jerusalem, houses plundered, populations deported. Yet none exhausted the prophecy's scope—"all nations" indicates more comprehensive gathering than any historical event. Zechariah 12:3 and 14:2 together describe Jerusalem as "burdensome stone" provoking all nations, fulfilled partially in Israel's modern conflicts but ultimately awaiting eschatological culmination. Revelation 16:16 and 19:19 describe this final gathering at Armageddon, while Revelation 11:2 specifies Jerusalem trampled by Gentiles before deliverance.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's sovereignty over even hostile nations gathering against Jerusalem demonstrate His control over history's culmination?
2. What does the preservation of a remnant through extreme tribulation teach about God's faithfulness to His covenant promises?
3. How should Christians respond to modern conflicts involving Jerusalem in light of this eschatological vision?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֶסְפֹּתִי י	אֶת	כָּל	הַגּוֹיִם	אֶל	יְרוּשָׁלַם	לְמִלְחָמָה
For I will gather	H853	H3605	all nations	H413	against Jerusalem	to battle
H622			H1471		H3389	H4421
וְנִלְכְּדָה	הָעִיר:	וְנִשָּׂסוּ	הַבָּתִּים	וְהַנְּשִׁים		
shall be taken	and the city	rifled	and the houses	and the women		
H3920	H5892	H8155	H1004	H802		
וְנִשְׁגָּ לָנָה	וְיָצָא	חֲצִי	הָעִיר:	בְּגוֹלָה	וְיָתֵר	
H7693	shall go forth	and half	and the city	into captivity	and the residue	
	H3318	H2677	H5892	H1473	H3499	
הָעָם	לֹא	יִכָּרֵת	מִן	הָעִיר:		
of the people	H3808	shall not be cut off	H4480	and the city		
H5971		H3772		H5892		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 13:16** (Parallel theme): Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

**Mark 13:14** (Parallel theme): But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

**Isaiah 5:26** (Parallel theme): And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

**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.

**Joel 3:2** (Parallel theme): I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and

for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

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