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Zechariah

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Zechariah

Chapter 1

¹In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of Yahweh came to Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo, the prophet, saying, ²"Yahweh was exceedingly angry with your fathers! ³Say to them, 'Yahweh of hosts says this:

Turn to me!—this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—

and I will return to you, says Yahweh of hosts.

⁴Do not be like your fathers to whom the prophets cried out previously, saying, "Yahweh of hosts says this: Turn now from your evil ways and your evil practices!" But they would not hear and did not pay attention to me—this is Yahweh's declaration.'

⁵Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, are they here forever?

⁶But my words and my decrees that I commanded my servants the prophets,

have they not overtaken your fathers?

So they repented and said, 'Just as Yahweh of hosts planned to do to us what our ways and actions deserved, so he has dealt with us.'

⁷On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of Yahweh came to Zechariah son of Berechiah son of Iddo, the prophet, saying, ⁸"I saw in the night, and, look! a man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtle trees that {are} in the valley; and behind him there were red, reddish-brown, and white horses." ⁹I said, "What {are} these things, Lord?" Then the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what these things are." ¹⁰Then the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These {are those} Yahweh has sent out to roam throughout the earth." ¹¹They answered the angel of Yahweh who stood among the myrtle trees; they said to him, "We have been roaming throughout the earth; and see, all the earth sits still and is at rest."

¹²Then the angel of Yahweh answered and said, "Yahweh of hosts, how long will you show no compassion to Jerusalem and to the cities of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?" ¹³Yahweh answered the angel who had talked with me, {with} good words, words of comfort. ¹⁴So the angel who had talked {with} me said to me, "Call out and say, 'Yahweh of hosts says this:

I have been jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great passion!

¹⁵I am very angry with the nations that are at ease.

When I was only a little angry with them, they made the disaster worse.

¹⁶Therefore Yahweh says this:

I have returned to Jerusalem with mercies. My house will be built within her—

this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—and the {measuring} line will be stretched out over Jerusalem!

¹⁷Again call out, saying,

‘Yahweh of hosts says this: My cities will once again overflow with goodness,
and Yahweh will again comfort Zion, and he will once again choose Jerusalem.’”

¹⁸Then I lifted up my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! ¹⁹I spoke to the angel who talked with me, “What {are} these?” He answered me, “These {are} the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.” ²⁰Then Yahweh showed me four craftsmen. ²¹I said, “What {are} these people coming to do?” He answered, and said, “These {are} the horns that scattered Judah so that no man would lift up his head. But the {blacksmiths} have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations that lifted up a horn against the land of Judah to scatter her.”

Chapter 2

¹Then I lifted up my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. ²I said, “Where {are} you going?” So he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what {is} its width and what {is} its length.” ³And behold, the angel who had talked with me went away and another angel went out to meet him. ⁴And he said to him, “Run and speak to that young man; saying,

‘Jerusalem will sit in the open country

because of the multitudes of men and beasts within her.

⁵For I—this is Yahweh’s declaration—will become for her a wall of fire around her,
and I will be the glory in her midst.

⁶Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north—declares Yahweh—
for I have scattered you like the four winds of the skies!—declares Yahweh.

⁷Up! Escape to Zion, you who live with the daughter of Babylon!”

⁸For Yahweh of hosts said this, after he honored and sent me against the nations that plundered you—
for whoever touches you, touches the apple of God’s eye!

⁹“For I myself will shake my hand over them, and they will be plunder for their slaves.”
Then you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me.

¹⁰“Sing and be glad, daughter of Zion,
for I myself will come and encamp among you!—declares Yahweh.”

¹¹Then great nations will join Yahweh in that day and they will become my people;
and I will encamp in your midst, and you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you.

¹²Then Yahweh will inherit Judah as his rightful possession in the holy land
and will once again choose Jerusalem.

¹³Be silent, all flesh, before Yahweh, for he has been roused from his holy place!

Chapter 3

¹Then Yahweh showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Yahweh and Satan was standing at his right to accuse him. ²Then Yahweh said to Satan, "May Yahweh rebuke you, Satan; may Yahweh, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! {Is} this not a poker pulled from the fire?" ³Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴Then he spoke and said to those who stood before him, saying, "Remove the filthy clothes from upon him." Then he said to Joshua, "Look! I have caused your iniquity to pass from you and I will dress you in fine clothing." ⁵Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head!" So they set a clean turban on Joshua's head and clothed him with clothes, while the angel of Yahweh was standing by.

⁶Next the angel of Yahweh said to Joshua, ⁷"Yahweh of hosts says this:

If you will walk in my ways, and if you will keep my commandments,

then you will govern my house and guard my courts,

for I will allow you to walk among these who stand here.

⁸Please Listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your companions who live with you!

For these men {are} a sign, for I myself will bring up my servant the Branch.

⁹Now look at the stone that I have set before Joshua. There are seven eyes on this single stone,

and I will engrave an inscription—this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—

and I will remove the sin from this land in one day.

¹⁰In that day—this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—each man will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree."

Chapter 4

¹Then the angel who was talking with me turned and roused me like a man who was roused from his sleep. ²Then he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand made entirely of gold, with a bowl on its top. It has seven lamps on it and seven tubes for each lamp, which are on the top. ³Two olive trees {are} by it, one on the right side of the bowl and one on the left side." ⁴So again, I spoke to the angel who was talking with me. I said, "What do these things mean, my master?" ⁵The angel who was talking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these things mean?" I said, "No, my master." ⁶So he answered and said to me, "This {is} the word of Yahweh to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says Yahweh of hosts. ⁷What {are} you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel {you will become} a plain, and he will bring out the top stone to shouts of 'Grace! Grace to it!'"

⁸The word of Yahweh came to me, saying, ⁹"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house and his hands will bring {it} to completion." Then you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you.

¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? They will rejoice and will see the plumb stone in the hand of Zerubbabel. (These seven {are} the eyes of Yahweh, they roam over the whole earth.)

¹¹Then I answered and said to him, "What {are} these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on the left?"

¹²Then I answered again and said to him, "What {are} these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that have golden {oil} pouring out of them?" ¹³Then he said to me, "Do you not know what these {are}?" I said, "No, my master."

¹⁴Then he said, "These {are} the two sons of oil who stand before the Lord of all the earth."

Chapter 5

¹Then I turned and lifted my eyes, and I saw, behold, a flying scroll! ²Then he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide." ³Then he said to me, "This {is} the curse that goes out over the surface of the whole land. For every thief will be cut off according to what it says on the one {side}, and everyone who swears a false oath will be cut off {according to} what it says on the other {side}. ⁴"I will send it out—this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—so it will enter into the house of the thief and into the house of the one that swears falsely by my name. And it will remain in his house and consume its timber and its stones."

⁵Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, "Raise now your eyes and see what {is} coming!" ⁶And I said, "What is it?" And he said, "This {is} the measuring basket that {is} coming." And he said, "This {is} their iniquity in the whole land."^[1] ⁷And behold, a lead covering was lifted off and there was a woman sitting inside the measuring basket! ⁸And he said, "This {is} Wickedness!" Then he threw her inside the measuring basket, and he threw the weight of lead over its opening. ⁹And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming, and wind was in their wings—for they had wings like a stork's wings. And they lifted up the measuring basket between earth and between heaven. ¹⁰And I said to the angel who was talking to me, "Where {are} they taking the measuring basket?" ¹¹And he said to me, "To build for it a temple in the land of Shinar, and when it is ready, it will be set there on its base."

5:6 ^[1]. The Hebrew text has , but this is widely thought to be an error.

Chapter 6

¹And I turned and lifted my eyes and I saw, and behold, four chariots coming out from between two mountains; and the two mountains {were} made of bronze. ²The first chariot had red horses, the second chariot had black horses, ³and the third chariot had white horses, and the fourth chariot had spotted gray horses. ⁴And I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What {are} these, my master?" ⁵And the angel answered and said to me, "These are four winds of heaven that go out from where they were, before the Lord of all the earth. ⁶The one with the black horses is going out to the north country; and the white ones are going out to the west; and the spotted ones are going out to the south country." ⁷These strong {horses} went out and sought to go and roam over the earth, and he said, "Go and roam over the earth!" and they went to roam over the earth. ⁸Then he called out to me and spoke to me, saying, "Look at the ones that are going out to the north country; they will appease my spirit in the north country."

⁹And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, ¹⁰"Take from the exiles—from Heldai, and from Tobijah, and from Jedaiah—and you go this same day and take it into the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah, who has come from Babylon. ¹¹And take the silver and gold and make a crown and set {it} on the head of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ¹²And speak to him, saying, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, saying:

Behold, a man whose name {is} Branch, and he will grow from his place
and he will build the temple of Yahweh!

¹³And he will build the temple of Yahweh, and he will bear glory, and will sit and rule on his throne.

And he will be a priest on his throne, and a counsel of peace will exist between both of them. ¹⁴And the crown will be given to Heldai, to Tobijah, to Jedaiah, and to Hen, son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of Yahweh.

¹⁵Then those who are far off will come and build the temple of Yahweh, so you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you; for {this} will happen if you truly listen to the voice of Yahweh your God!"

Chapter 7

¹And it happened in the fourth year of Darius the king, the word of Yahweh came to Zechariah, on the fourth {day} of the ninth month, in Kislev. ²{The people} of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melek and their men {to} beg before the face of Yahweh. ³They spoke to the priests who {were} at the house of Yahweh of hosts {and} to the prophets; they said, "Should I mourn in the fifth month by means of a fast, as I have done these many years?"

⁴So the word of Yahweh of hosts came to me, saying,

⁵"Speak to all the people of the land and to the priests and say, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and in the seventh {month} for these seventy years, were you truly fasting for me? ⁶When you ate and drank, did you not eat and {drink for yourselves}? ⁷Were these not the same words that Yahweh proclaimed by the mouth of the former prophets, when you still inhabited Jerusalem and the surrounding cities in prosperity and were settled in the Negev, and the foothills to the west?' ⁸The word of Yahweh came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹"Yahweh of hosts says this, 'Judge with true justice, covenant faithfulness, and mercy. Let each man do this for his brother. ¹⁰About the widow and orphan, the foreigner, and the poor person—do not oppress them, and let none of you plot any harm against another in your heart.' ¹¹But they refused to pay attention and set their shoulders stubbornly. They stopped up their ears so they would not hear. ¹²They made their hearts as hard as rock so they would not hear the law or the words of Yahweh of hosts. He had sent these messages to the people by his Spirit in earlier times, by the mouth of the prophets. But the people refused to listen, so Yahweh of hosts was very angry with them. ¹³It happened that when he called, they did not listen. In the same way," said Yahweh of hosts, "they will call out to me, but I will not listen. ¹⁴For I will scatter them with a whirlwind to all the nations that they have not seen, and the land will be desolate after them. For no one will pass through the land or return to it since the people have made their delightful land into a wasteland."

Chapter 8

¹The word of Yahweh of hosts came to me, saying, ²"Yahweh of hosts says this: I am passionate for Zion with great zeal and I am passionate for her with great anger! ³Yahweh of hosts says this: I will return to Zion and will live in the midst of Jerusalem, for Jerusalem will be called The City of Truth and the mountain of Yahweh of hosts will be called The Holy Mountain!

⁴Yahweh of hosts says this:

Old men and old women will once again be in the streets of Jerusalem,
and every person will need a staff in his hand because he has grown so old.

⁵The streets of the city will be full of boys and girls playing in them.

⁶Yahweh of hosts says this:

If something seems impossible in the eyes of the remnant of this people in those days,
should it also seem impossible in my eyes?—this is Yahweh's declaration.

⁷Yahweh of hosts says this:

Behold, I am about to rescue my people from the land of the sunrise and from the land of the setting sun!

⁸For I will bring them {back,}

and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem,

so they will again be my people,

and I will be their God in truth and in righteousness!

⁹Yahweh of hosts says this:

You who now continue to hear the same words

that came from the prophets' mouths

when the foundation of my house was laid—this house of mine, Yahweh of hosts:

Strengthen your hands so that the temple can be built.

¹⁰For before those days

no crops were gathered in by anyone,

there was no profit for either man or beast,

and there was no peace from enemies for anyone going or coming.

I had set every person each against his neighbor.

¹¹But now it will not be as in former days,

I will be with the remnant of this people—

this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts.

¹²For seeds of peace will be sown;

the climbing vine will give its fruit and the earth will give its produce;

the skies will give their dew,

for I will make the remnant of this people inherit all these things.

¹³You were an example to the other nations of a curse,

house of Judah and house of Israel.

So I will rescue you and you will be a blessing.

Do not be afraid; let your hands be strong!

¹⁴For Yahweh of hosts says this:

Just as I planned to do harm to you when your ancestors provoked my anger—

says Yahweh of hosts—and did not relent,

¹⁵so also I will plan in these days

to do good again to Jerusalem and the house of Judah!

Do not fear! ¹⁶These are the things that you must do: Speak truth, every person with his neighbor. Judge with truth, justice, and peace in your gates. ¹⁷Do not plan to do evil within your heart against one another, and do not love false oaths—for these are the things I hate!—this is Yahweh's declaration."

¹⁸Then the word of Yahweh of hosts came to me, saying,

¹⁹"Yahweh of hosts says this: The fasts of the {fourth} month, the fifth month, the seventh month, and the tenth month will become times of joy, gladness, and happy festivals for the house of Judah! Therefore love truth and peace!

²⁰Yahweh of hosts says this: People will come again, even those who are living in many different cities.

²¹The inhabitants of one {city} will go to {another} city and say, 'Let us quickly go to beg before the face of Yahweh and to seek Yahweh of hosts! We ourselves are also going.'

²²Many people and mighty nations will come to seek Yahweh of hosts in Jerusalem and beg for the favor of Yahweh!

²³Yahweh of hosts says this: In those days ten men from every language and nation will grasp the hem of your robe and say, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard {that} God {is} with you!'"

Chapter 9

¹"This is a declaration of Yahweh's word concerning the land of Hadrak and Damascus, its resting place; for the eyes of all humanity and all the tribes of Israel are toward Yahweh. ²This declaration also concerns Hamath, {which} borders on Damascus, and it concerns Tyre and Sidon, for they are very wise. ³Tyre has built herself a stronghold and heaped up silver like dust and refined gold like mud in the streets. ⁴Look! The Lord will dispossess her and destroy her strength on the sea, so she will be devoured by fire. ⁵Ashkelon will see and be afraid! Gaza also will tremble greatly! Ekron, her hopes will be disappointed! The king will perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall no longer be inhabited! ⁶Strangers will make their homes in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. ⁷For I will remove their blood from their mouths and their abominations from between their teeth. Then they will become a remnant for our God like a clan in Judah, and Ekron will become like the Jebusites.

⁸I will camp around my land against enemy armies,^[1] so no one can pass through or return, for no oppressor will overrun them, for now I see with my own eyes!

⁹Shout with great joy, daughter of Zion! Shout with happiness, daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold! Your king is coming to you with righteousness and is rescuing you. He is humble and {is} riding on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey.

¹⁰Then I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem,
and the bow will be cut off from battle; for he will speak peace to the nations,
and his dominion {will be} from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

¹¹As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the pit where there is no water. ¹²Return to the stronghold, prisoners of hope! Even today I am declaring {that} I will return double to you, ¹³for I have bent Judah as my bow. I have filled my quiver with Ephraim. I have roused your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece, and have made you, Zion, like a warrior's sword!" ¹⁴Yahweh will appear to them, and his arrows will shoot out like lightning! For my Lord Yahweh will blow the trumpet and will advance with the storms from Teman. ¹⁵Yahweh of hosts will defend them, and they will devour them and defeat the stones of the slings. Then they will drink and shout like men drunk on wine, and they will be filled with wine like bowls, like the corners of the altar. ¹⁶So Yahweh their God will rescue them on that day, as the flock of his people. They are the jewels of a crown that will shine on his land. ¹⁷How good and how beautiful they will be! The young men will flourish on grain and the virgins on sweet wine!"

9:8 ^[1] and some translate the Hebrew and so translate the phrase, .

Chapter 10

¹Ask for rain from Yahweh in the season of the spring rain—

Yahweh who makes thunderstorms—

and he gives rain showers to everyone

and vegetation in the field.

²For household idols speak falsely; the diviners envision a lie;

they tell deceitful dreams and give empty comfort,

so {they} wander like sheep and suffer because {there is} no shepherd.

³"My wrath burns against the shepherds; it is the male goats—the leaders—that I will punish. Yahweh of hosts will also attend to his flock, the house of Judah, and make them like his warhorse in battle! ⁴From Judah will come the cornerstone; from him will come the {tent} peg; from him will come the war bow; from him will come every ruler together.^[1] ⁵They will be like warriors who trample {their enemies} into the mud of the streets in battle; they will make war, for Yahweh is with them, and they will shame those who ride warhorses. ⁶I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph; for I will restore them and have mercy on them. They will be as though I had not cast them off, for I {am} Yahweh their God, and I will respond to them. ⁷Then Ephraim will be like a warrior, and their hearts will rejoice as with wine; their children will see and rejoice. Their hearts will rejoice in me!

⁸I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will rescue them, and they will become as great as they previously were! ⁹I sowed them among the peoples, but they will remember me in distant countries, so they and their children will live and return. ¹⁰For I will restore them from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the land of Gilead and Lebanon until there is no {more room} for them. ¹¹I will pass through the sea of their affliction; I will strike the waves of that sea and will dry up all the depths of the Nile. The majesty of Assyria will be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt will go away from the Egyptians. ¹²I will strengthen them in myself, and they will walk in my name—this is Yahweh's declaration."

10:4 ^[1] at the start of the next verse.

Chapter 11

¹Open your doors, Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars!

²Lament, cypress trees, for the cedar {trees} have fallen! What was majestic has been devastated!

Lament, you oaks of Bashan, for the strong forest has gone down.

³The shepherds howl, for their glory has been destroyed!

The voice of the young lions' roar, for the pride of the Jordan River has been devastated!

⁴This is what Yahweh my God says, "Like a shepherd, watch over the flock set aside for slaughter! ⁵(The ones who buy them slaughter them and are not punished, and the ones who sell them say, 'Blessed be Yahweh! I have become rich!' for the shepherds working for the flocks' owners have no pity on them.) ⁶For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land!—this is Yahweh's declaration. See! I myself am about to turn over every person into the hand of his neighbor and into the hand of his king, and they will destroy the land and none of them will I deliver {them} from their hand." ⁷So I became the shepherd of the flock marked for slaughter, for those who dealt in sheep. I took two staves; one staff I called "Favor" and the other I called "Unity." In this way I shepherded the flock.

⁸In one month I destroyed the three shepherds. I became impatient with them, and they also hated me. ⁹Then I said to the owners, "I will not work as a shepherd for you any longer. The sheep that are dying—let them die; the sheep that are being destroyed—let them be destroyed. Let the sheep that remain each eat the flesh of its neighbor." ¹⁰So I took my staff "Favor" and broke it to break the covenant that I had made with all of my tribes.

¹¹On that day the covenant was broken, and those who dealt in sheep and who were watching me knew that Yahweh had spoken. ¹²I said to them, "If it seems good to you, pay me my wages. But if not, do not do it." So they weighed out my wages—thirty {pieces} of silver. ¹³Then Yahweh said to me, "Deposit the silver in the treasury, the excellent price at which they valued you!" So I took the thirty {pieces} of silver and deposited them in the treasury in the house of Yahweh. ¹⁴Then I broke my second staff, "Unity," to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

¹⁵Yahweh said to me, "Again, take the equipment of a foolish shepherd for yourself, ¹⁶for see, I am about to set in place a shepherd in the land. He will not care for the perishing sheep. He will not seek out the sheep gone missing, nor heal the crippled sheep. He will not feed the sheep that are healthy, but will eat the flesh of the fattened sheep and will tear off their hooves.

¹⁷Woe to the worthless shepherd who forsakes the flock!

May the sword come against his arm and his right eye!

May his arm wither away and may his right eye become blind!"

Chapter 12

¹This is a declaration of Yahweh's word concerning Israel—a declaration of Yahweh, who stretched out the skies and laid the foundation of the earth, who fashions the spirit of mankind within man, ²"See, I am about to make Jerusalem into a cup causing all the peoples surrounding her to stagger about. It will also be like that for Judah during the siege against Jerusalem. ³On that day, I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. Anyone trying to lift that stone will hurt himself very much, and all the nations of the earth will gather against that city. ⁴On that day—this is Yahweh's declaration—I will strike every horse with confusion and its rider with madness. Over the house of Judah I will open my eyes, but every horse of the peoples I will strike with blindness. ⁵Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem {are} our strength because of Yahweh of hosts, their God.' ⁶On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like firepots among wood and like a flaming torch among standing grain, for they will consume all the surrounding peoples on their right and on their left. Jerusalem will

again live in her own place.” ⁷Yahweh will save the tents of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and the honor of those who live in Jerusalem may not be greater than the rest of Judah. ⁸On that day Yahweh will be the defender of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on that day those who are weak among them will be like David, while the house of David {will be} like God, like the angel of Yahweh in front of them. ⁹“On that day {that} I will begin to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰But I will pour out a spirit of compassion and pleading on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so they will look on me, the one they have pierced. They will mourn for me, as one mourns for an only {son}; they will bitterly lament for him like those who lament the death of a firstborn son. ¹¹On that day the laments in Jerusalem will be like the laments at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹²The land will mourn, each clan separate from other clans. The clan of the house of David will be separate and their wives will be separate from the men. The clan of the house of Nathan will be separate and their wives will be separate from the men. ¹³The clan of the house of Levi will be separate and their wives will be separate from the men. The clan of the Shimeites will be separate and their wives will be separate from the men. ¹⁴Every clan of the remaining clans—each clan will be separate and the wives will be separate from the men.”

Chapter 13

¹“On that day a spring will be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for their sin and impurity. ²On that day—this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts—I will cut off the names of the idols from the land and they will no longer be remembered. I will remove the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. ³If any man continues to prophesy, his father and mother who bore him will tell him, ‘You will not live, for you speak lies in the name of Yahweh!’ Then the father and mother who bore him will pierce him when he prophesies. ⁴On that day each prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he is about to prophesy. These prophets will no longer wear a hairy cloak, in order to deceive the people. ⁵For each will say, ‘I am not a prophet! I am a man who works the soil, for the land became my work while I was still a young man!’ ⁶But someone will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ and he will answer, ‘I was wounded with those in my friends’ house.’”

⁷“Sword! Rouse yourself against my shepherd,

the man who stands close to me—

this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts.

Strike the shepherd,

and the flock will scatter!

For I will turn my hand against the lowly ones.

⁸Then it will come about that throughout all the land—this is Yahweh’s declaration—

that two-thirds of it will be cut off! Those people will perish;

only one-third will remain there.

⁹I will bring that third through the fire

and refine them as silver is refined;

I will test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name,

and I will answer them and say,

'This is my people!'

and they will say, 'Yahweh is my God!'"

Chapter 14

¹Behold! A day for Yahweh is coming when your plunder will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather every nation against Jerusalem for battle and the city will be captured. The houses will be plundered and the women raped. Half of the city will go out into captivity, but the remainder of the people will not be cut off from the city. ³But Yahweh will go out and wage war against those nations as when he wages war on the day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is beside Jerusalem to the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in half between the east and the west by a very great valley and half of the mountain will go back toward the north and half toward the south. ⁵Then you will flee down the valley between Yahweh's mountains, for the valley between those mountains will reach to Azel. You will flee just as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah. Then Yahweh my God will come and all the holy ones will be with him. ⁶On that day there will be no light, but no cold or frost either. ⁷On that day, a day known only to Yahweh, there will no longer be day or night, for the evening will be a time of light. ⁸On that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem. Half of them will flow to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.

⁹Yahweh will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be Yahweh, the one God, and his name alone. ¹⁰All the land will be like the Arabah, from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will continue to be raised up and remain in its own place, from the Benjamin Gate to the place where the first gate was, to the Corner Gate, and {from} the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹{The people} will live in Jerusalem and there will be no more {complete} destruction from God against them. Jerusalem will live in safety.

¹²This will be the plague with which Yahweh will attack all the peoples that waged war against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot away even as they are standing on their feet. Their eyes will rot in their sockets and their tongues will rot in their mouths. ¹³On that day that great fear from Yahweh will come among them. Each one will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will be raised up against the hand of another. ¹⁴Judah will also fight against Jerusalem. They will gather the wealth of all the surrounding nations—gold, silver, and fine clothes in great abundance. ¹⁵A plague will also be on the horses {and} the mules, the camels and the donkeys, and on every animal in those camps will also suffer that same plague.

¹⁶Then it will happen {that} all who remain in those nations that came against Jerusalem will instead go up from year to year to worship the king, Yahweh of hosts, and to keep the Festival of Shelters. ¹⁷It will happen {that} if anyone from all the nations of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the king, Yahweh of hosts, then Yahweh will not bring rain on them. ¹⁸If the nation of Egypt does not go up, then they {will not} receive {rain}. A plague from Yahweh will attack the nations that do not go up to keep the Festival of Shelters. ¹⁹This will be the punishment for Egypt and the punishment for every nation that does not go up to keep the Festival of Shelters. ²⁰But on that day, the bells of the horses {will say,} "Set apart to Yahweh," and the basins in Yahweh's house will be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹For every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be set apart to Yahweh of hosts and everyone who brings a sacrifice will eat from them and boil in them. On that day traders will no longer be in the house of Yahweh of hosts.

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