English: Condensed Translation Notes for Zechariah

Formatted for Translators

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Notes: English ULB Translation Notes

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## Chapter 1

#### Zechariah 1:1

##### In the eighth month

This is the eighth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is during the last part of October and the first part of November on Western calendars.

##### the second year of Darius' reign

"the second year of the reign of Darius the king" or "the second year since Darius became king"

##### the word of Yahweh came

"Yahweh gave a message" or "Yawheh spoke this message"

##### Yahweh

This is the name of God that he revealed to his people in the Old Testament.

##### Berekiah ... Iddo

These are the names of men.

#### Zechariah 1:2

##### exceedingly angry with your fathers

"very angry with your forefathers"

#### Zechariah 1:3

##### this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts

"this is what Yahweh of hosts has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh of hosts, have declared"

#### Zechariah 1:4

##### Turn from your evil ways and wicked practices

"Stop doing all of your wicked actions"

#### Zechariah 1:5

##### Your fathers—where are they? And the prophets—do they live forever?

"Think about your fathers—where are they now? Think about the prophets—do they live forever?"

##### Your fathers—where are they?

"Your fathers—you know where they are." or "Your fathers have all died."

##### And the prophets—do they live forever?

"And the prophets—they do not live for ever." or "And the prophets do not live forever."

#### Zechariah 1:6

##### But my words and my decrees that I commanded my servants the prophets, have they not overtaken your fathers?

"But my words and my decrees that I commanded my servants the prophets have overtaken your fathers." or "But your fathers have suffered the consequences for disobeying my words and my decrees that I commanded my servants the prophets to tell them."

#### Zechariah 1:7

##### the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat

"Shebat" is the eleventh month of the Hebrew calendar. The twenty-fourth day is near the middle of February on Western calendars.

##### the prophet, saying,

Here the word “saying” introduces what Zechariah was about to say. The word “saying” can be removed if it may make your readers think that Yahweh is about to speak. Alternate translation: “the prophet.”

#### Zechariah 1:8

##### look

The word "look" here shows that Zechariah was surprised by what he saw.

##### myrtle trees

a kind of small tree with colorful flowers

#### Zechariah 1:9

##### I said, "What are these things, Lord?" Then the angel who talked with me

Here Zechariah speaks to an unidentified angel. This is not the same as the "man" who was "riding on a red horse."

##### What are these things, Lord?

"What are these things, sir?" Here the word "Lord" is a form of polite address.

#### Zechariah 1:10

##### the man who stood among the myrtle trees

This refers to the man who "was riding on a red horse" in Zechariah 1:8.

#### Zechariah 1:11

##### the angel of Yahweh who stood among the myrtle trees

This phrase refers to the man who stood among the myrtle trees in Zechariah 1:10.

##### They answered ... they said

The word "they" refers either to the red, reddish-brown, and white horses or to the horses' riders.

##### all the earth sits still and is at rest

"all the earth is peaceful and resting" or "the nations of the earth have peace and rest"

#### Zechariah 1:12

##### to Jerusalem and to the cities of Judah

"to the people of Jerusalem and the cities of Judah"

#### Zechariah 1:13

##### with good words, words of comfort

"with good, comforting words"

#### Zechariah 1:14

##### I have been jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great jealousy

"I have been extremely jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion." Yahweh does not want anyone to harm Jerusalem or try to have Jerusalem love anything more than Yahweh.

##### jealous

This word refers to Yahweh's strong desire to protect his people.

##### Jerusalem ... Zion

"the people of Jerusalem ... the people of Zion"

#### Zechariah 1:15

##### I am very angry with the nations that are at ease

"I am very angry with the nations that enjoy peace and security"

##### I was only a little angry with them

"I was only a little angry with the people of Jerusalem"

##### they made the disaster worse

"the nations that are at ease made the disaster worse." This means that although Yahweh used these nations to punish Jerusalem, they did more harm to Jerusalem than what Yahweh had intended for them to do.

#### Zechariah 1:16

##### I have returned to Jerusalem with mercies

"I will once again show mercy towards Jerusalem"

##### My house will be built within her

"The people will build my temple in Jerusalem"

##### the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem

"builders will stretch out their measuring lines over Jerusalem" or "the people will rebuild Jerusalem"

#### Zechariah 1:17

##### Again call out, saying

The angel who was speaking to Zechariah says these words.

##### My cities will once again overflow with goodness

"My cities will once again be prosperous" or "The people in the cities of Judah will once again be prosperous"

##### Yahweh will again comfort Zion

"Yahweh will again comfort the people in Zion"

#### Zechariah 1:18

##### I lifted up my eyes

"I looked up"

#### Zechariah 1:19

##### These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem

"These horns represent the nations that have scattered the people of Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem". Horns were often used as a symbol for military power. Here they symbolize the powerful nations that had conquered the kingdoms of Israel.

#### Zechariah 1:20

##### four craftsmen

"blacksmiths" or "metalworkers"

#### Zechariah 1:21

##### these people

This refers to the four craftsmen.

##### These are the horns that scattered Judah

"These horns represent the nations that scattered the people of Judah". See Zechariah 1:19.

##### so that no man would lift up his head

"and caused them to suffer greatly"

##### to cast down the horns of the nations that lifted up a horn against the land of Judah

"to destroy the power of the nations who used their military might against the land of Judah"

##### to cast down the horns of the nations that lifted up a horn

"to cast down the horns that the nations had lifted up"

## Chapter 2

#### Zechariah 2:1

##### I lifted up my eyes

"I looked up". This book contains a number of visions given to Zechariah so the images are not ones Zechariah actually saw but were given to him in a vision or dream. It is important for each of these visions to keep their meanings and not be interpreted to mean any specific thing. Please be careful to translate each of the terms in your language.

##### measuring line

a rope with a certain length that a person would use to measure buildings or large sections of land

#### Zechariah 2:2

##### So he said to me

"So the man with the measuring line said to me"

#### Zechariah 2:3

##### another angel went out to meet him

This angel is a new participant who has not appeared before this verse.

#### Zechariah 2:4

##### The second angel said to him

"The second angel said to the angel who had talked with me". This chapter is introduced in prose with imagery used in the rest of the chapter to portray Zechariah's third vision about measuring lines given by the Lord.

##### Jerusalem will sit in the open country ... livestock within her

"Jerusalem will not have walls around it ... livestock within the city". There will be so many inhabitants in the city that it will be too large to have walls around it.

#### Zechariah 2:5

##### I ... will become for her a wall of fire around her

"I ... will protect the city, like a wall of fire around it"

##### this is Yahweh's declaration

"this is what I, Yahweh, have declared". Yahweh speaks of himself to express the certainty of what he is declaring. See Zechariah 1:4. This phrase is used several times in this chapter.

#### Zechariah 2:6

##### Up! Up!

"Run! Run!" or "Hurry! Hurry!"

#### Zechariah 2:7

##### you who live with the daughter of Babylon

"you who live in Babylon"

#### Zechariah 2:8

##### General Information:

Zechariah begins to speak and tells how Yahweh is sending him to judge the nations who have plundered Jerusalem.

##### for whoever touches you

"for whoever harms you"

#### Zechariah 2:9

##### I myself will shake my hand over them

"I myself will fight against them" or "I myself will attack them"

##### they will be plunder for their slaves

"their slaves will plunder them"

#### Zechariah 2:10

##### Sing for joy and be glad, daughter of Zion

"Sing for joy and be glad, Zion" or "Sing for joy and be glad, people of Zion". "Zion" is the same as "Jerusalem."

#### Zechariah 2:11

##### great nations will join themselves to Yahweh

"the people of great nations will become the people of Yahweh"

##### in that day

"at that time"

#### Zechariah 2:12

##### Yahweh will inherit Judah as his rightful possession

"Yahweh will claim Judah as his rightful possession"

#### Zechariah 2:13

##### all flesh

"all people"

##### he has been roused

"he is coming". It is implied this refers to Yahweh returning to Jerusalem.

##### from out of his holy place

"from his holy place in heaven"

## Chapter 3

#### Zechariah 3:1

##### General Information:

The chapter seems to refer to a particular person, Joshua the high priest. However, little is known about him. The chapter is introduced in prose and shares the fourth vision, which is the priest in dirty clothes. It is important for each of these visions to keep their meanings and not be interpreted to mean any specific thing.

##### Satan was standing at his right hand to accuse him of sin

"Satan was standing at Joshua's right side, ready to accuse Joshua of sin"

#### Zechariah 3:2

##### Is this not a brand pulled from the fire?

"Joshua is a brand pulled from the fire."

##### a brand pulled from the fire

The angel of Yahweh speaks of Joshua as if he were a piece of wood that someone pulls from a fire before the wood is completely burned.

#### Zechariah 3:3

##### Joshua was dressed in filthy garments

In this vision "filthy garments" are symbolic of sinfulness.

#### Zechariah 3:4

##### those who stood before him

The word "him" refers to the angel. The phrase refers to other angels who were present.

##### Look

"Pay attention, because what I am about to say is both true and important"

##### I have caused your iniquity to pass from you

"I have removed your iniquity from you". By removing his garments, the angel removed Joshua's iniquity.

##### dress you in official robes

The phrase "official robes" refers to righteousness. This refers to clothes that people wear only for special occasions.

#### Zechariah 3:5

##### Let them put

The word "them" refers to the other angels who were present.

##### turban

a long piece of cloth wrapped around the head

#### Zechariah 3:6

##### solemnly commanded Joshua

"commanded Joshua in a very serious manner"

#### Zechariah 3:7

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

"If you will obey me and keep my commandments".

##### you will govern my house and guard my courts

"you will have authority over my temple and its courtyards"

##### to go and come among these who stand before me

"to come before me as these who stand here do"

#### Zechariah 3:8

##### your companions who live with you

"the other priests who live with you"

##### For these men are a sign

Here the word "sign" refers to something that communicates a special meaning to those who see it. Yahweh speaks of the priests serving in the temple as being this sign that shows that Yahweh will bring his servant.

##### my servant the Branch

The word "Branch" refers to a Messianic figure that would serve as king over Yahweh's people. Yahweh speaks of this person as if he were a branch that grows out from a tree. Since the word "Branch" is a title, it should be translated with an equivalent word in your language.

#### Zechariah 3:9

##### the stone that I have set before Joshua

The word "stone" likely refers to a precious stone or jewel.

##### There are seven eyes on this single stone

"There are seven sides on this single stone"

##### engrave

"carve"

##### I will remove the iniquity from this land in one day

"I will forgive the iniquity of the people who live in this land in one day"

#### Zechariah 3:10

##### each man will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree

"because they will be at peace, each person will invite his neighbor to come and sit under his vine and his fig tree"

## Chapter 4

#### Zechariah 4:1

##### General Information

This chapter is written mainly in prose about the fifth vision, which is about the golden lampstand olive trees and shows a conversation between Zechariah and the angel of Yahweh. It is important for each of these visions to keep their meanings and not be interpreted to mean any specific thing.

##### roused me like a man roused from his sleep

"caused me to become more alert like a man awakened from his sleep"

#### Zechariah 4:2

##### lamp wicks

the parts of a lamp that are lit on fire

#### Zechariah 4:3

##### the left side

"the left side of the bowl"

#### Zechariah 4:5

##### Do you not know what these things mean?

"Surely you know what these things mean."

#### Zechariah 4:6

##### Not by might nor by power

"You will not succeed by might nor by power"

##### Not by might nor by power

"Certainly not by your own strength" or "Not by military strength nor by your own power". This emphasizes the greatness of Zerubbabel's strength and physical ability.

#### Zechariah 4:7

##### What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain

"You are nothing, great mountain! Zerubbabel will cause you to become a plain" or "Although obstacles may appear as large as mountains, Zerubbabel will overcome them as easily as one walks upon level ground"

##### he will bring out the top stone

"he will bring out the top stone of the temple" or "he will complete the construction of the temple". The top stone is the last stone placed when building something.

##### to shouts of 'Grace! Grace to it!'

"while people shout, 'May God bless it! May God bless it!'" or "while people shout, 'Beautiful! It is beautiful!'"

#### Zechariah 4:8

##### The word of Yahweh came to me, saying

"Yahweh spoke this message to me". This introduces a special message from God.

#### Zechariah 4:9

##### The hands of Zerubbabel have laid ... his hands will bring it to completion

"Zerubbabel has laid ... he will bring it to completion"

##### the foundation of this house

"the foundation of this temple"

#### Zechariah 4:10

##### Who has despised the day of small things? These people will rejoice

"Those who have despised the day of small things will rejoice"

##### the day of small things

"the time when progress was slow". This refers to when the people were building the temple.

##### plumb stone

This is an instrument made with a heavy object attached to the end of a string that builders used to ensure that the walls of buildings were straight.

##### These seven lamps

This refers to the lamps that Zechariah saw in Zechariah 4:2-3.

##### These seven lamps are the eyes of Yahweh that roam over the whole earth

"These seven lamps represent the eyes of Yahweh, who sees everything that happens on the earth"

#### Zechariah 4:11

##### these two olive trees

This refers to the olive trees that Zechariah saw in Zechariah 4:2-3.

#### Zechariah 4:12

##### What are these two olive branches

Here Zechariah changes his question and asks about branches that are connected to the two olive trees.

##### the two gold pipes

These pipes were not mentioned in the previous description of Zechariah's vision. It is possible that they are connected to the bowl on top of the lampstand and provide the oil with which the lampstand burns.

##### golden oil

Here "golden" refers to the color of the oil and does not mean that the oil was made of gold.

#### Zechariah 4:13

##### Do you not know what these are?

"Surely you know what these are."

#### Zechariah 4:14

##### These are the sons of fresh olive oil

"These two branches represent the sons of fresh olive oil"

##### the sons of fresh olive oil

"the anointed men" or "the men whom Yahweh has appointed". A person who is anointed is one whom Yahweh has chosen or appointed for a special duty.

##### who stand before the Lord

"who serve the Lord"

## Chapter 5

#### Zechariah 5:1

##### Then I turned

The word "I" refers to Zechariah.

##### lifted my eyes

"looked up"

##### behold

The word "behold" here shows that Zechariah was surprised by what he saw. This chapter contains the next two visions. One is about a flying scroll and one is about the basket filled with iniquity.

#### Zechariah 5:2

##### twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide

"9.2 meters long and 4.6 meters wide". A cubit is 46 centimeters.

#### Zechariah 5:3

##### This is the curse

"On this scroll is the curse"

##### that goes out over the surface of the whole land

"that is upon every person within the whole land"

##### every thief will be cut off ... everyone who swears a false oath will be cut off

"Yahweh will cut off every thief ... Yahweh will cut off everyone who swears a false oath" or "Yahweh will remove every thief from the land ... Yahweh will remove from the land everyone who swears a false oath"

##### what it says on the one side ... what it says on the other side

"what the scroll says on one side ... what the scroll says on the other side"

#### Zechariah 5:4

##### I will send it out

"I will send out the curse"

##### this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts

"this is what I, Yahweh of hosts, have declared"

##### consume its timber and stones

"destroy its wood and stones" or "completely destroy it"

#### Zechariah 5:5

##### Raise your eyes

"Look up"

#### Zechariah 5:6

##### This is a basket containing an ephah that is coming

"This is a large container that is coming". An "ephah" is a unit of measurement for dry materials and equals 22 liters.

##### This is their iniquity in the whole land

"This basket represents the iniquity of the people throughout the whole land"

#### Zechariah 5:7

##### a lead covering was lifted off the basket

"someone lifted a lead covering off the basket"

##### there was a woman under it sitting in it

"there was a woman under the lead covering sitting in the basket"

#### Zechariah 5:8

##### This is Wickedness

"This woman represents wickedness"

##### He threw her ... he threw the lead cover

"He thrust her ... he forced the lead cover." The word "threw" indicates the force with which the angel did these things. He did not literally throw the woman or the cover.

#### Zechariah 5:9

##### I lifted my eyes

"I looked up"

##### wind was in their wings

"they were flying"

##### they had wings like a stork's wings

A stork is a type of large bird that has a wingspan of two to four meters. Zechariah compares the size of the women's wings with the size of the stork's wings.

##### They lifted up the basket between earth and heaven

"They lifted the basket up into the sky and flew away"

#### Zechariah 5:11

##### To build a temple in the land of Shinar for it

"They are taking the basket to the land of Shinar to build a temple for it"

##### the basket will be set there

"they will set the basket there"

##### on its prepared base

This refers to a pedestal or other kind of fixture upon which they will place the basket.

## Chapter 6

#### Zechariah 6:1

##### General Information

This chapter is written mainly in prose and tells the last vision of the four chariots in the first part of the chapter. The second part of the chapter is about a crown made for the high priest. This is an actual person, but the meaning of the word "branch" should be translated as his name. The visions are stated and even when the prophet asked for an explanation, their true meaning is often obscure. This uncertainty should remain in your translation.

##### lifted my eyes

"looked up"

##### between two mountains; and the two mountains were made of bronze

"between two bronze mountains"

#### Zechariah 6:2

##### The first chariot had red horses

"The first chariot had red horses pulling it" or "Red horses were pulling the first chariot"

#### Zechariah 6:5

##### These are the four winds of heaven

"These chariots represent the four winds of heaven"

##### the four winds of heaven

This phrase refers to the four directions from which the wind blows: north, east, south, and west. Some modern versions interpret this Hebrew expression to mean "four spirits."

##### standing before the Lord of all the earth

"serving the Lord of all the earth". This means to be in a person's presence and to serve him. See Zechariah 4:14.

#### Zechariah 6:6

##### the white horses are going out to the west country

"the white horses are going out after them," that is, following the black horses to the north country.

##### the white horses are ... the spotted gray horses are

"the chariot with the white horses is ... the chariot with the spotted gray horses is"

#### Zechariah 6:8

##### he called out to me

"the angel called out to me"

##### Look at the ones

"Look at the black horses"

##### they will appease my spirit concerning the north country

"they will calm my anger concerning the north country" or "they will cause my spirit to rest in the north country"

#### Zechariah 6:9

##### the word of Yahweh came to me, saying

"Yahweh spoke this message to me". This introduces a special message from God.

#### Zechariah 6:10

##### Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah

These are the names of men.

##### this same day

"today"

#### Zechariah 6:11

##### Jozadak

This is the name of a man.

##### take the silver and gold, make a crown

"make a crown with the silver and gold"

#### Zechariah 6:12

##### Speak to him and say

"Speak to Joshua and say"

##### his name is Branch

The word "Branch" refers to a messianic figure that would serve as king over Yahweh's people. Yahweh speaks of this person as if he were a branch that grows out from a tree. Since the word "Branch" is a title, it should be translated with an equivalent word in your language. See how you translated this name in Zechariah 3:8.

##### He will grow up where he is

This likely refers to this person appearing or coming into power as the one who would supervise the rebuilding of the temple.

#### Zechariah 6:13

##### He will be a priest on his throne

"There will be a priest upon his throne"

##### he will bear a counsel of peace between the two

The words "the two" refer to the roles of king and priest. The meaning of this phrase depends upon the meaning of the previous phrase. Possible meanings are: the "Branch" will faithfully carry out his duties as both priest and king and not forsake one in order to fulfill the other or the "Branch" who serves as king and the other person who serves as a priest will each carry out their duties faithfully and they will work together in peace.

#### Zechariah 6:14

##### The crown will given

"You will give the crown"

##### Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah ... Hen

These are the names of men. See how you translated these in Zechariah 6:10.

##### for Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial

"as a memorial to the generosity of the son of Zephaniah" or "as a memorial to the one who is gracious, the son of Zephaniah." Also, some modern versions interpret the name "Hen" as meaning the name "Josiah."

#### Zechariah 6:15

##### those who are far off

This refers to the Israelites who remain in Babylon.

##### so you will know

The word "you" is plural and refers to the people of Israel.

##### truly listen to the voice of Yahweh your God

"truly obey what Yahweh your God says"

## Chapter 7

#### Zechariah 7:1

##### on the fourth day

"on day 4"

##### Kislev (which was the ninth month)

"Kislev" is the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar. The fourth day of Kislev is near the end of November on Western calendars.

##### the word of Yahweh came to Zechariah

"Yahweh spoke this message to Zechariah". This introduces a special message from God.

#### Zechariah 7:2

##### Sharezer and Regem-Melek

These are the names of men.

##### beg

Here the word "beg" means to plead or ask urgently.

##### before the face of Yahweh

"in the presence of Yahweh"

#### Zechariah 7:3

##### They spoke ... they said

The word "they" refers to Sharezer and Regem Melek.

##### Should I mourn in the fifth month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jewish people fasted during a part of the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar because this is when the Babylonians destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. The fifth month is during the last part of July and the first part of August on Western calendars.

##### by means of a fast

"by fasting"

#### Zechariah 7:4

##### the word of Yahweh of hosts came to me, saying

"Yahweh of hosts spoke this message to me". This introduces a special message from God.

#### Zechariah 7:5

##### in the fifth

"in the fifth month"

##### in the seventh month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jews mourned during a part of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar because in this month the remaining Jews in Jerusalem fled to Egypt after the murder of Gedaliah, whom the king of Babylon appointed as governor over Judah. The seventh month is during the last part of September and the first part of October on Western calendars.

##### for these seventy years

The assumed knowledge is that the people of Israel had been slaves in Babylon for 70 years.

##### were you truly fasting for me?

"you were not really fasting for me."

#### Zechariah 7:6

##### When you ate and drank

Possible meanings are: when they feasted and drank when celebrating religious festivals or when they ate and drank whenever they were not fasting.

##### did you not eat and drink for yourselves?

"it was for yourselves that you ate and drank."

#### Zechariah 7:7

##### Were these not the same words ... were inhabited?

"These are the same words ... were inhabited". Yahweh uses a question to scold the people.

##### by the hand of the former prophets

"by the words of the former prophets" or "through the former prophets"

##### when Jerusalem and the surrounding cities were inhabited and prosperous

"you still lived in Jerusalem and everyone who lived in the surrounding cities was prosperous"

#### Zechariah 7:9

##### Judge with true justice, covenant faithfulness, and mercy

"When you judge, be just, faithful to the covenant, and merciful"

##### Let each man do this

The word "this" refers to how a person should judge.

#### Zechariah 7:10

##### widow

a woman whose husband has died

##### orphan

a child whose parents have died

##### foreigner

someone who travels from his own land to a different land

##### let none of you plot any harm against another in your heart

"you must not make plans to do evil"

#### Zechariah 7:11

##### set their shoulders stubbornly

"became stubborn". This is an image of an ox refusing to allow its owner to put a yoke on its shoulders.

##### They stopped up their ears so they would not hear

"They refused to listen"

#### Zechariah 7:12

##### They made their hearts as hard as rock so they would not hear the law or the words of Yahweh of hosts

"They stubbornly refused to hear the law or the words of Yahweh of hosts"

##### in earlier times

"in the past"

##### by the mouth of the prophets

"through the words of the prophets"

#### Zechariah 7:14

##### I will scatter them with a whirlwind

"I will scatter them as a whirlwind scatters things". Yahweh speaks of how he will scatter the people.

##### whirlwind

a strong wind that spins very quickly as it moves and can cause damage

##### delightful land

"pleasant land" or "fruitful land"

## Chapter 8

#### Zechariah 8:1

##### The word of Yahweh of hosts came to me, saying

"Yahweh of hosts gave me a message. He said" or "Yahweh of hosts spoke this message to me, saying"

#### Zechariah 8:2

##### I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy

"I am extremely jealous for Zion." Yahweh does not want anyone to harm Zion or try to have Zion love anything more than Yahweh.

##### for Zion

"for the people of Zion" or "for the people of Jerusalem"

##### with great anger

"with great anger against her enemies"

#### Zechariah 8:3

##### the mountain of Yahweh of hosts

The implied information is that this refers to Mount Zion, the location upon which the city of Jerusalem was built.

#### Zechariah 8:4

##### be in the streets of Jerusalem

"be living in Jerusalem"

##### in his hand because he has grown so old

People having the opportunity to grow old implies the city will be peaceful and prosperous for a long time.

#### Zechariah 8:5

##### The streets of the city will be full

The public areas of the city will be full of people in their normal activities.

#### Zechariah 8:6

##### If something seems impossible in the eyes of

"If something does not appear to be possible to"

##### the remnant of this people

"the people of Judah who survive"

##### in my eyes

"to me"

##### this is Yahweh's declaration

"this is what Yahweh has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh, have declared"

#### Zechariah 8:7

##### I am about to rescue my people

The implied information is that the people are in exile. "I am about to rescue my people of Judah who went into exile"

##### from the land of the sunrise and from the land of the setting sun

"from all lands in every direction"

#### Zechariah 8:8

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

"I will be their God. I will be faithful to them and act toward them in a just manner"

#### Zechariah 8:9

##### Strengthen your hands

"Be strong and courageous"

#### Zechariah 8:10

##### For before those days

Here "those days" refers to the time the people of Judah started to rebuild the temple.

##### there was no profit for either man or animal

It was useless for people and their animals to farm the land because they got no food from it.

##### I had set every person each against his neighbor

"I had turned everyone against each other"

#### Zechariah 8:11

##### in former days

"in the past."

##### the remnant of this people

"the people who returned from exile"

#### Zechariah 8:12

##### seeds of peace will be sown

"the people will safely sow seed"

##### the earth will give its produce; the skies will give their dew

The earth and skies are spoken of as if they were persons giving what is needed.

##### inherit all these things

"to have all these things"

#### Zechariah 8:13

##### You were an example to the other nations of a curse

"When I punished you, the other nations learned what happens when I curse a people"

##### house of Judah and house of Israel

"people of Judah and Israel"

##### you will be a blessing

"when I bless you, the other nations will learn what happens when I bless a people" or 3) Yahweh will bless the people of Judah and Israel."

##### let your hands be strong

"be strong and courageous"

#### Zechariah 8:14

##### do harm to you

"punish you"

##### provoked my anger

"angered me"

##### did not relent

"did not decide to punish them less"

#### Zechariah 8:15

##### Jerusalem

"the people of Jerusalem"

#### Zechariah 8:16

##### that you must do

"You" refers to the people of Judah.

##### Speak truth, every person with his neighbor

"Everyone must say only true things to his neighbor"

##### his neighbor

Here "neighbor" means any person, not just someone who lives nearby.

##### Judge with truth, justice, and peace in your gates

"When you are making decisions in your gates, judge in a way that is true and just and causes people to live peacefully with each other"

##### in your gates

"in your places of judgment"

#### Zechariah 8:17

##### this is Yahweh's declaration

"this is what Yahweh has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh, have declared"

#### Zechariah 8:18

##### came to me

Here "me" refers to Zechariah.

#### Zechariah 8:19

##### The fasts of the fourth month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jews mourned during a part of the fourth month of the Hebrew calendar because this is when the Babylonians broke through the walls of Jerusalem. The fourth month is during the last part of June and the first part of July on Western calendars.

##### the fifth month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jewish people fasted during a part of the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar because this is when the Babylonians destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. The fifth month is during the last part of July and the first part of August on Western calendars.

##### the seventh month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jews mourned during a part of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar because in this month the remaining Jews in Jerusalem fled to Egypt after the murder of Gedaliah, whom the king of Babylon appointed as governor over Judah. The seventh month is during the last part of September and the first part of October on Western calendars.

##### the tenth month

The assumed knowledge is that the Jews mourned during a part of the tenth month of the Hebrew calendar because this is when the Babylonians began their siege against Jerusalem. The tenth month is during the last part of December and the first part of January on Western calendars.

##### love truth and peace

"love what is truthful and peaceful"

#### Zechariah 8:20

##### People will come again

"People will come again to Jerusalem"

#### Zechariah 8:21

##### will go to another city

"will go to the people of another city"

##### beg

Here the word "beg" means to plead or ask urgently.

##### seek Yahweh of hosts

Those who want to know Yahweh and please him are spoken of as if they are literally seeking to find Yahweh.

#### Zechariah 8:22

##### mighty nations

"people of mighty nations"

#### Zechariah 8:23

##### Let us go with you

"Let us go to Jerusalem with you"

##### God is with you

"God is with you people"

## Chapter 9

#### Zechariah 9:1

##### Hadrak

The location of Hadrak is unknown today.

##### its resting place

"the resting place of the people of Hadrak"

##### the eyes of all humanity and all the tribes of Israel are toward Yahweh

"all humanity and all the tribes of Israel look toward Yahweh"

#### Zechariah 9:2

##### Hamath

"the people of the land of Hamath"

##### Tyre and Sidon

"the people of Tyre and Sidon"

##### for they are very wise

"though they think they are very wise"

#### Zechariah 9:3

##### built herself a stronghold

"built a strong fortress" or "built a high wall"

##### heaped up silver like dust and refined gold like mud in the streets

"accumulated silver and gold as much as soil in the streets"

#### Zechariah 9:4

##### Look! The Lord will dispossess her

"Pay attention! The Lord will take away Tyre's possessions"

##### destroy her strength on the sea

"destroy Tyre's ships in which men fight on the sea"

##### so she will be devoured by fire

"and enemies will burn the city to the ground"

#### Zechariah 9:5

##### Ashkelon ... Gaza ... Ekron, her hopes

"The people of Ashkelon ... the people of Gaza ... the hopes of the people of Ekron"

##### will see

"will see Tyre be destroyed"

#### Zechariah 9:6

##### Strangers will make their homes in Ashdod

"Foreigners will take over Ashdod and live there"

##### I will cut off the pride of the Philistines

"I will make the Philistines to be proud of themselves no longer"

#### Zechariah 9:7

##### I will remove their blood from their mouths and their abominations from between their teeth

"I will no longer allow them to eat meat that still has blood in it, and I will forbid them to eat food that they offered to idols"

#### Zechariah 9:8

##### I will camp around my land

"I will protect my land"

##### for now

"For at that time"

##### I see with my own eyes

"I will personally watch over my land"

#### Zechariah 9:9

##### Shout

If your language has a word for a shout of victory that is different from a shout to begin a battle, you might want to use it here.

##### daughter of Zion ... daughter of Jerusalem

"Zion" is the same as "Jerusalem."

##### Behold!

"Pay attention!" or "Here is a surprising fact!"

##### He is righteous and victorious

Some modern translations read, "He is righteous and is coming to save you."

##### on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey

"on a young donkey"

#### Zechariah 9:10

##### cut off the chariot from Ephraim

"destroy the chariots in Israel that are used for battle"

##### the horse from Jerusalem

"the warhorses in Jerusalem"

##### the bow will be cut off from battle

"all weapons of war will be destroyed"

##### for he will speak peace to the nations

"for your king will bring peace to the nations"

##### his dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

"his kingdom will be over all the earth!"

##### the River

This probably refers to the Euphrates River.

#### Zechariah 9:11

##### As for you

This refers to the city of Jerusalem, also called "Zion."

##### the pit where there is no water

This dry pit represents the exile in Babylon.

#### Zechariah 9:12

##### Return to the stronghold

"Come back to your nation where you will be safe"

##### prisoners of hope

"prisoners who still hope in Yahweh"

##### return double to you

"return to you twice as much as was taken from you"

#### Zechariah 9:13

##### Zion

This refers to the city of Jerusalem, also called "Zion."

##### I have bent Judah as my bow

"I will cause the people of Judah to be like my bow"

##### filled my quiver with Ephraim

Yahweh speaks of the people of Israel, the northern kingdom, as if they were arrows that he would shoot at his enemies. A quiver is a bag that holds a soldier's arrows. (

##### I have roused your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece

God is speaking to the people of two different nations at the same time.

#### Zechariah 9:14

##### will appear to them

"will be seen in the sky by his people" or "will come to his people"

##### his arrows will shoot out like lightning!

The Israelites sometimes thought of lightning bolts as arrows that God shot.

##### blow the ram's horn

People blew into rams' horns to give signals in battle and on other occasions. Here the ram's horn is blown as a military signal.

##### will advance with the storms from Teman

"will march from Teman with the storm winds"

#### Zechariah 9:15

##### they will devour them

"the people of Judah will will completely defeat their enemies"

##### defeat the stones of the slings

"defeat the enemies who attack them with slings and stones"

##### Then they will drink and shout like men drunk on wine

"Then they will shout and celebrate their victory as loudly as if they were drunk"

##### they will be filled with wine like bowls

"they will be as full of wine as the basins with which priests carry blood to the altar"

##### like the corners of the altar

"they will be drenched as the corners of the altar are covered in blood"

#### Zechariah 9:16

##### God will rescue them ... as the flock of his people

The people of Israel are spoken of as if they are God's sheep that he cares for and protects.

##### They are the jewels of a crown

"They will be like beautiful stones in a crown"

#### Zechariah 9:17

##### How good and how beautiful they will be!

"They will be very good and beautiful!"

##### The young men will flourish on grain and the virgins on sweet wine!

"All of the people, both men and women, will have plenty of grain to eat and sweet wine to drink!"

##### The young men ... the virgins

These two phrases are parallel and together represent the entire population of Israel.

## Chapter 10

#### Zechariah 10:1

##### vegetation in the field

"causes plants to grow in the field"

#### Zechariah 10:2

##### household idols speak wickedness

"household idols say evil things." Zechariah is not suggesting that idols actually speak. He is referring to the messages people say they hear from idols.

##### diviners envision a lie

"diviners see false visions"

##### they tell deceitful dreams

"diviners lie about their dreams in order to deceive people"

##### empty comfort

This refers to words that sooth temporarily, but do not provide any longterm help.

##### they wander like sheep

"the people who listen to the false prophets are like sheep who do not know which way to go"

##### they ... suffer because there is no shepherd

"the people who listen to the false prophets ... are suffering like sheep who do not have a shepherd to guide them"

#### Zechariah 10:3

##### My wrath burns against the shepherds

"My anger toward the shepherds of my people is as intense as a fire" or "I am very angry with the leaders of my people"

##### it is the male goats—the leaders—that I will punish

Male goats are typically more dominant than female goats. Here "male goats" represents the oppressive leaders of God's people.

##### Yahweh of hosts will also attend to his flock, the house of Judah

"Yahweh of hosts will take care of the house of Judah as a shepherd cares for his sheep"

##### the house of Judah

"Judah" or "the people of Judah"

##### make them like his warhorse in battle

"will cause them to be strong like war horses in battle"

#### Zechariah 10:4

##### From Judah will come the cornerstone

"One of the descendants of Judah will become the most important ruler"

##### from him will come the tent peg

"the leader who will hold the nation together will come from Judah"

##### from him will come the war bow

"the military leader will come from Judah"

##### from him will come every ruler together

"every ruler will come from Judah"

#### Zechariah 10:5

##### They will be like warriors ... streets in battle

"They will be mighty in battle, trampling their enemies into the mud of the streets"

##### Yahweh is with them

"Yahweh will help them"

##### they will shame those who ride warhorses

"they will defeat their enemies who ride warhorses"

#### Zechariah 10:6

##### the house of Judah

"Judah" or "the kingdom of Judah" or "the people of Judah"

##### the house of Joseph

"Israel" or "the kingdom of Israel" or "the people of Israel"

#### Zechariah 10:7

##### Ephraim will be like a warrior

"Ephraim will be very strong"

##### their hearts will rejoice as with wine

"and they will be very happy"

##### their children will see and rejoice. Their hearts will rejoice in me!

"their children will see what has taken place and will be happy because of what Yahweh has done for them!"

#### Zechariah 10:8

##### I will whistle

To whistle is to produce a high, shrill sound with air through narrowed lips. It is often done to give a signal to other people, as here.

#### Zechariah 10:9

##### I sowed them among the peoples

The exile of the people is spoken of as if they were seed that Yahweh had planted in a distant land.

#### Zechariah 10:10

##### until there is no more room for them

"and they will completely fill the land"

#### Zechariah 10:11

##### I will pass through the sea of their affliction

"I will go with them and help them as they go through their many afflictions"

##### I will strike the waves of that sea

"I will cause the waves of that sea of affliction to stop"

##### will dry up all the depths of the Nile

"I will cause the Nile River to lose all its water"

##### The majesty of Assyria will be brought down

"I will destroy Assyria's proud army"

##### the scepter of Egypt will go away from the Egyptians

"the power of Egypt to rule other nations will end"

#### Zechariah 10:12

##### I will strengthen them in myself

"I will cause them to be strong and to believe in me"

##### this is Yahweh's declaration

"this is what Yahweh has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh, have declared"

## Chapter 11

#### Zechariah 11:1

##### Open your doors, Lebanon, that fire may devour

"People of Lebanon, get ready, because fire will devour" or "People of Lebanon, do not try to stop the fire that will devour"

##### fire may devour your cedars

"fire may completely destroy your cedars" or "fire may completely burn up your cedars"

#### Zechariah 11:2

##### Wail, cypress trees, for the cedar trees have fallen

"If the trees were people, they would cry out in sorrow. The cypress trees stand alone because the cedars have burned and fallen"

##### What was glorious has been devastated

"The glorious cedar trees are no more" or "The cedar trees were once glorious, but now they are ruined"

##### Wail, you oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has gone down.

"If the oak trees in Bashan were people, they would wail, for their impenetrable forests are gone"

##### impenetrable forest

a forest in which plants grow so close together that people cannot pass between them

#### Zechariah 11:3

##### the shepherds' howl

"The loud cry of the shepherds"

##### for their glory has been destroyed

"for their rich pastures are ruined"

##### for the pride of the Jordan River has been devastated

"because the trees and shrubbery where they lived by the Jordan River are ruined"

#### Zechariah 11:4

##### watch over the flock set aside for slaughter

"take care of a flock of sheep that the owners plan to slaughter"

#### Zechariah 11:5

##### Those who buy them ... them and are not guilty

"Those who buy them ... them, but no one believes they are guilty for doing so"

#### Zechariah 11:6

##### this is Yahweh's declaration

"this is what Yahweh has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh, have declared"

##### See!

"Listen!" or "Pay attention!"

##### I myself

The word "myself" is used to emphasize that it is Yahweh who will do these things.

##### turn over every person into the hand of his neighbor and into the hand of his king

"allow the people to harm each other and the king will oppress them"

##### none of them will I deliver them from their hand

"I will not save them from those who are harming them" or "I will not rescue them"

#### Zechariah 11:7

##### for those who dealt in sheep

"for those who bought and sold sheep"

##### Favor

Other versions of the Bible translate this word as "grace," "beauty," or "pleasant."

#### Zechariah 11:8

##### I became impatient with them,

Possible meanings are 1) "them" refers to the three shepherds or 2) "them" refers to the sheep owners.

#### Zechariah 11:9

##### the sheep that are being destroyed—let them be destroyed

"the sheep that are perishing—let them perish" or "the sheep that are to wander and get lost—let them get lost"

#### Zechariah 11:10

##### all the peoples

"all the nations." Some modern translations read "all the people," referring to the people of Israel.

#### Zechariah 11:11

##### the covenant was broken

"the covenant ended"

##### knew that Yahweh had spoken

"knew that Yahweh had given them a message"

#### Zechariah 11:12

##### thirty pieces of silver

"only thirty pieces of silver"

#### Zechariah 11:13

##### treasury

This is the place in the temple of Yahweh where the priests kept the money.

##### the excellent price

"the small amount of money"

#### Zechariah 11:14

##### between Judah and Israel

"between the people of Judah and the people of Israel"

#### Zechariah 11:16

##### I am about to set in place a shepherd in the land

"I am about to appoint a shepherd in the land" or "I am about to put a shepherd in charge in the land"

##### the fattened sheep

"the fattest sheep" or "the best sheep"

##### will tear off their hooves

This was probably done as an act of cruelty.

#### Zechariah 11:17

##### May the sword

"May enemies"

##### come against his arm and his right eye

"strike and wound his right arm and pierce his right eye"

##### his arm

Here "arm" represents the power to fight.

##### his arm wither away

"his arm waste away" or "his arm become completely useless"

## Chapter 12

#### Zechariah 12:1

##### who stretched out the skies

"the one who created the sky"

##### laid the foundation of the earth

"put all the earth into place"

##### fashions the spirit of mankind within man

"creates the human spirit"

#### Zechariah 12:2

##### I am about to make Jerusalem into a cup ... to stagger about

"Soon it will be like I make Jerusalem into a cup ... to stagger about"

##### into a cup

"into a cup full of wine" or "into a cup full of an alcoholic drink"

##### surrounding her

Here "her" refers to the city of Jerusalem.

#### Zechariah 12:3

##### I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the peoples

"It will be like I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all the peoples"

##### burdensome stone ... carry

Some modern translations read, "stone that cannot be moved ... move."

#### Zechariah 12:4

##### Over the house of Judah I will open my eyes

"I will do good things for the house of Judah" or "I will protect the house of Judah"

##### the house of Judah

"the people of Judah"

#### Zechariah 12:5

##### say in their hearts

"think to themselves" or "say to themselves"

##### are our strength

"make us strong" or "encourage us"

##### Yahweh of hosts, their God

"Yahweh of hosts, the God they worship"

#### Zechariah 12:6

##### like firepots among wood ... standing grain

"like firepots among stacked firewood ... unharvested stalks of grain standing in a field"

##### firepots

clay pots in which ancient people often carried burning coals

##### flaming torch

a wooden stick that is burning at one end which gives light as one travels or carries fire somewhere

##### will consume all the surrounding peoples

"will destroy the surrounding peoples"

##### on their right and on their left

"in every direction"

##### Jerusalem will again live in her own place

"The people of Jerusalem will again live in their own city"

#### Zechariah 12:7

##### the tents of Judah

"the people of Judah"

##### the house of David

Possible meanings are 1) the descendants of David or 2) the ruling class of people.

#### Zechariah 12:8

##### those who are weak among them will be like David

"those who are weak will be strong like David"

##### the angel of Yahweh

This is an angel sent by Yahweh to protect the people.

#### Zechariah 12:10

##### I will pour out a spirit of compassion and pleading on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem

"I will cause the house of David and inhabitants of Jerusalem to have mercy on others and to pray to me for mercy"

##### the one they have pierced

"the one whom they stabbed to death"

##### for an only son

"for an only son who has died"

#### Zechariah 12:11

##### the wailing in Jerusalem will be like the wailing at Hadad Rimmon

Hadad Rimmon may have been the place where the good King Josiah died of battle wounds after the Battle of Megiddo. It appears that the custom arose to hold periodic mourning there for his death. Some people, however, think that Hadad Rimmon was the name of a false god who was believed to die every year, an event for which his worshipers would go into mourning.

##### Megiddo

This is the name of a plain in Israel.

#### Zechariah 12:12

##### The land will mourn

"All the people in the land of Judah will mourn"

#### Zechariah 12:13

##### The clan of the house of Levi

"The descendants of Levi"

## Chapter 13

#### Zechariah 13:1

##### a spring will be opened ... for their sin and impurity

"it will be like a spring opens ... to cleanse their sin and impurity"

##### a spring

a place where water flows naturally out of the ground

##### the house of David

"the descendants of David"

#### Zechariah 13:2

##### this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts

"this is what Yahweh of hosts has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh of hosts, have declared"

##### I will cut off the names of the idols from the land

"I will cause the people to no longer mention the names of the idols"

##### they will no longer be remembered

"so that they no longer think about the idols"

##### I will remove the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness from the land

"I will also remove from the land the false prophets and their evil spirits"

##### spirit of uncleanness

Some modern translations read, "unclean spirit," taking the phrase "of uncleanness" as a description of the word "spirit."

#### Zechariah 13:3

##### to prophesy

"to prophesy falsely"

##### his father and mother who bore him

"his own father and mother"

##### You will not live

"You must die"

##### you speak lies in the name of Yahweh

"you claim to speak for Yahweh but you speak lies"

##### will pierce

"will stab and kill him"

#### Zechariah 13:4

##### each prophet

"every false prophet"

##### no longer wear a hairy cloak

Prophets often wore heavy outer garments made of animal hair.

#### Zechariah 13:5

##### I am a man who works the soil

"I am a farmer"

##### the land became my work while I was still a young man

"I became a farmer when I was young." Some versions of the Bible translate this as "a man sold me as a slave when I was young."

#### Zechariah 13:6

##### What are these wounds between your arms?

"How did you get those cuts on your chest?" This refers to the apparent custom of false prophets wounding themselves in their ceremonies.

##### he will answer

"he will lie to him saying"

#### Zechariah 13:7

##### Sword! Rouse yourself against my shepherd

"You, enemies! Go and attack my shepherd"

##### my shepherd

"my servant who is like a shepherd"

##### this is the declaration of Yahweh of hosts

"this is what Yahweh of hosts has declared" or "this is what I, Yahweh of hosts, have declared"

##### the flock will scatter

"my people will run away like sheep"

##### I will turn my hand against the lowly ones

"I will attack the lowly ones"

##### the lowly ones

This probably refers to all the Israelites who are weak and defenseless.

#### Zechariah 13:8

##### that two-thirds of it will be cut off! Those people will perish; only one-third will remain there

"that two out of every three people will die! Only one person out of three will remain in the land"

#### Zechariah 13:9

##### I will bring that third through the fire

Metal is passed through fire in order to purify or harden it.

##### refine them as silver is refined; I will test them as gold is tested

Refining refers to making precious metals such as silver more pure. Metals such as silver and gold are tested in order to discover how pure or strong they are.

##### They will call on my name

"They will call out to me"

## Chapter 14

#### Zechariah 14:1

##### A day for Yahweh is coming when your plunder will be divided in your midst

"Soon Yahweh will judge you, and he will allow your enemies to take all of your possessions and divide if for themselves while you watch"

#### Zechariah 14:2

##### I will gather every nation against Jerusalem for battle

"I will cause many nations to attack Jerusalem"

##### the city will be captured

"your enemies will capture the city"

##### The houses will be plundered and the women raped

"Enemies will plunder the houses and rape the women"

##### the remainder of the people will not be cut off from the city

"your enemies will allow the remaining people to stay in the city"

#### Zechariah 14:3

##### as when he makes war on the day of battle

"just as he fought battles in the past"

#### Zechariah 14:4

##### On that day

"At that time"

##### his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives

"he will stand on the Mount of Olives"

##### The Mount of Olives will be split ... by a very great valley

"The presences of Yahweh will split the Mount of Olives ... causing there to be a very great valley"

#### Zechariah 14:5

##### you will flee

Here "you" is plural and refers to the people of Jerusalem.

##### between Yahweh's mountains

This refers to the mountains created after the Mount of Olives split in half.

##### Azel

This is the name of a town or village east of Jerusalem.

##### You will flee just as you fled

"You will flee just as your ancestors fled"

##### in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah

"when Uzziah was king of Judah"

##### the holy ones

This probably refers to God's angels.

#### Zechariah 14:6

##### On that day

"At that time"

##### there will be no light

"there will be no light from the sun"

#### Zechariah 14:7

##### a day known only to Yahweh

"only Yahweh knows when that day will begin" or "only Yahweh knows when that time will begin"

#### Zechariah 14:8

##### living waters

This normally means running or flowing water, rather than still or stagnant water.

##### the eastern sea

This refers to the Dead Sea, which is east of Jerusalem.

##### the western sea

This refers to the Mediterranean Sea.

#### Zechariah 14:9

##### there will be Yahweh, the one God, and his name alone

"people will know that Yahweh is the only true God" or "people will only worship Yahweh, the one true God"

#### Zechariah 14:10

##### All the land

"All the land of Judah"

##### Arabah

This is the name of a plain in the Jordan River Valley.

##### Geba

This is the name of a town on the northern border of Judah.

##### Rimmon

This is the name of a town south of Jerusalem.

##### Jerusalem will continue to be raised up

"But, Jerusalem will remain high up"

##### the Benjamin Gate ... the first gate ... the Corner Gate

These are names of gates in the northeast part of city wall of Jerusalem. Possible meanings are 1) "the first gate" and "the Corner Gate" refer to the same gate or 2) "the first gate" and "the Corner gate" are separate gates.

##### the Tower of Hananel

This refers to a strong point in the city defenses on the northern wall. It was probably built by a man named Hananel.

##### the king's winepresses

This probably refers to the place where wine was made for the royal family. It was located in the southwest part of Jerusalem.

#### Zechariah 14:11

##### Jerusalem will live in safety

"The people will live safely in Jerusalem"

#### Zechariah 14:12

##### even as they are standing on their feet

"while they are still standing up." This emphasizes how quickly their flesh will rot away. They will not even have time to lie down.

#### Zechariah 14:13

##### that great panic from Yahweh will come among them

"Yahweh will cause the people to be very terrified"

##### Each one will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will be raised up against the hand of another

"Each person will grab someone, and they will fight each other"

#### Zechariah 14:14

##### Judah will also make war against Jerusalem

"Even the other people in Judah will make war against the people of Jerusalem"

##### They will gather the wealth

"They will capture all the valuable possessions"

##### in great abundance

"in great quantities"

#### Zechariah 14:16

##### that came against Jerusalem

"that attacked Jerusalem"

##### will go up from year to year

"will go to Jerusalem every year"

##### the Festival of Shelters

"the Festival of Tabernacles" or "the Festival of Booths" or "the Festival of Tents"

#### Zechariah 14:18

##### A plague from Yahweh will attack the nations

"Yahweh will cause a plague among the people of the nations"

#### Zechariah 14:20

##### the bells of the horses will say

"the inscription on the bells of the horses will say"

##### the basins in the house of Yahweh

"the cooking pots in the courtyard of the temple"

##### will be like the bowls before the altar

"will be as sacred as the bowls used at the altar"

#### Zechariah 14:21

##### every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be set apart to Yahweh of hosts

Various types of pots and utensils were made especially to be used in the temple for the worship of Yahweh and for the sacrifices. These were considered special, not to be used for anything else.

##### traders will no longer be in the house of Yahweh

"people will no longer buy or sell things in the courtyard of the temple of Yahweh"

##### traders

Some versions of the Bible translate "traders" as "Canaanites."