

## **Zech. 14:12-21 "A New Feast of Booths"**

**For the Children:** In the OT, the Feast of Booths reminded God's people of 2 things: first, their rescue from Egypt, through the Exodus – the "booths" were little shelters made of sticks and leaves, like those the people made in their travels through the wilderness. Second, the booths reminded them of God's blessings of the harvest each year – for the booths were also like the shelters made by farmers as they worked in their fields. We have a better rescue now, through the Lord Jesus – from Satan, sin and death; and through Him we receive even greater blessings. **Questions:** Should we still keep the OT Feast of Booths? What blessings do we now have through the Lord Jesus? How do we have a greater holiness through Him?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Final Victory**

- 1) The Plague: The Lord intervenes to defeat the opposition of the whole world against His Church. His intervention is put in terms of a great plague on the armies of their world, and their animals, as they surround Jerusalem. The plagues remind us of how He dealt with Egypt.
- 2) The Panic: The Lord also causes panic to strike these armies. The soldiers turn on each other, as they did in 2 Chron. 20. All the Lord's enemies will end in confusion and be divided against their fellows. Ultimately, this violent division will be seen in hell.
- 3) The Victors: Not so with God's people. Those whom the nations formerly plundered now become the plunderers. The wealth of the nations becomes theirs. See also Hag. 2:7-8. None of this is to be taken as a detailed description of a single battle, but as a symbolic summary of Christ's victory, where He defeats all enmity and gives the nations as an inheritance to His people (Ps. 2:8-9). The "wealth" of the Gentiles begins to come to the church when the Gospel first goes out to the nations. It reaches its fullest expression when Christ returns and grants the new Creation to His people.

#### **Second Point: The Final Harvest**

- 1) The New Feast: The "gathering" of the wealth of the nations suggests a harvest-theme. Hence the symbolism of a new Feast of Booths – which celebrated God's bountiful provision at harvest-time, as well as His deliverance of Israel from Egypt (Lev. 23). This is not literal – the ceremonial laws of feasts will not be re-introduced at the End. It represents the deliverance and provision Christ brings..
- 2) The Gentile Remnant: Christ's Kingdom will include a remnant – "survivors" – from the Final Battle. See also Zech. 8:20-23; Is. 2:2-3; Mic. 4:2). These survivors will join with the remnant of Israel to worship the Lord together. They are already doing so, until the full number of the New Israel is gathered in.
- 3) Those Who Refuse: When the Lord returns there will be no one who refuses to worship Him in His New Creation. If there were, they would be cursed, as in the OT rebels were cursed with drought and famine. The point is that in Christ's Kingdom, obedience will eventually be total, with all opposition removed.

#### **Third Point: The Final Holiness**

- 1) Holy Horses: In this symbolic description, all who dwell in Christ's Kingdom will be so filled with holiness, that even unclean animals like horses will bear bells with the inscription, "Holy to the Lord" – like the high-priest had on his turban (Ex. 29).
- 2) Holy Pots: Even items of everyday use will be holy in "That Day," e.g., cooking pots. There will be no distinction between them and the most holy utensils in the Temple in the OT. The sacred/secular division of the OT will be brought to an end by Christ's work. All aspects of life can now be used to glory God.
- 3) Holy People: The Post-Exilic community had a problem with Gentiles mixing with God's people, even living in the Temple rooms (Neh. 13). But in the Messianic Kingdom, God's people will be entirely holy. There will be no "Canaanites" in the Lord's House (v. 21). See also Gal. 3:28; Rev. 21:8, 27. Given the nature of Christ's Kingdom, we should strive to live holy (Eph. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:11).

### **Conclusion:**

