

## סוכות א

*Zechariah, chapter 14, verses 1 to 21*

### **Introduction**

*Why this haftarah was chosen:*

Zechariah assigns to the festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles) a central place of importance in the religious calendar of the world. Beginning with verse 16, the Prophet describes how other nations will be obliged to make their pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the Sukkot festival.

*The setting:*

As our *General Introduction* points out, there is much scholarly debate over chapters 9-14 of the book of Zechariah. They appear to come from a different hand, probably from a "Second Zechariah" who lived after the new Temple had been built. The central sanctuary of the people was now functioning, but the hoped-for radical changes had not materialized. The focus shifts to a more distant future, even the very end of days, when God, Israel, and the rest of humanity will live in harmony, and Jerusalem becomes the religious center of the world.

For more on Zechariah and his time, see our *General Introduction*.

*The message:*

1. Jerusalem will be destroyed, but afterward a new Jerusalem will arise in a completely different landscape. (1-5)
2. The new Jerusalem lives peacefully under the rule of the Eternal, who is adored throughout the world. (6-11)
3. Reprise: Once more the enemies of Israel will arise, but they will suffer a dreadful fate. (12-15)
4. The survivors of all nations will make a yearly pilgrimage to Jerusalem in order to celebrate Sukkot. (16-21)