



# **ZECHARIAH**

**A Glorious Future!**

**The Glory of the Day of the Lord!**

**Zechariah 14:1-21**

**Message #15 of 15 – S1024**

**Sermon given on November 27, 2022**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Glory of the Day of the Lord!

## *Zechariah 14:1-21*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 14**
- Today, we conclude a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- If you have ever watched a movie more than once than you know that the second time you watch it, you see it differently
- That is because you know how it is going to end
- God spoke to men like Zechariah so that he could tell us how the story of this world is going to end
- By knowing the end, we can better understand what is going on in the world around us
- Zechariah ends his prophetic writings telling us some things about the end of the story
- It is a good news, bad news kind of story
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Glory of the Day of the Lord!**
- The last chapter of Zechariah opens with words that ought to fill God's people with joy mixed with sadness
- **Zechariah 14:1a**
- Those same words ought to fill those who aren't God's people with terror
- They won't be afraid because they don't believe them to be true
- Just because someone refuses to believe something is true doesn't stop it from being true
- 'the day of the Lord' occurs 30 times in the Bible
- It is clear that this is not something most people should be looking forward to **Isaiah 13:9**

**Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.**

- God has a glorious plan for the Jews, but first He has to deal with the wickedness and sin in this world
- The Bible has a lot to say about the Day of the Lord and the times leading up to it
- We use another term to describe the Day of the Lord – the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – the Messiah
- But before Jesus does come back, things will get hard for the Jews
- **Zechariah 14:1b-2**
- In the last chapter we learned that two-thirds of the Jews would be killed in the last days before the Messiah returns
- All the nations will gather against Israel
- **Zechariah 14:3-4**
- At the Second Coming, Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives
- Which is where He ascended back to heaven from after His resurrection – angel said He would come back there **Acts 1:9-12**

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- His arrival will not go unnoticed – Mount of Olives split in two
- **Zechariah 14:5**
- This valley may be the Valley of Jehoshaphat where God will judge the nations **Joel 3:2**

I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.

- Messing with God’s people is always a bad idea
- Notice also, when the Messiah comes again, He will not be alone

### **Jude 14-15**

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are one of His saints

- Not only will the Mount of Olives split in two, but other unusual things will happen
- **Zechariah 14:6-7**
- When Jesus died on the cross unusual things happened
- The veil was torn in two, there was an earthquake, and darkness covered the land for about three hours
- God will make it clear that something important is happening
- Everything will be different
- **Zechariah 14:8**
- ‘eastern sea’ = The Dead Sea – ‘western sea’ = Mediterranean
- Ezekiel 37 also referred to something like this
- ‘living waters’ = waters that bring life
- Jesus may have been thinking about the spiritual reality of this when He said in **John 7:37-38**

**On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”**

- That brings us to the key verse of this chapter
- **Zechariah 14:9**
- The Bible makes clear that Jesus is the rightful King of this whole world and everyone on it **Revelation 19:15-16**

**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**

- It is also clear that not everyone is yielded to His sovereign authority
- That will change when He steps down onto the Mount of Olives
- The whole world will acknowledge that there is only one King

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

**Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

- People may not bow today, but they will on that day!
- We are then reminded of God’s love for the city of Jerusalem
- **Zechariah 14:10-11**
- No longer will the people of Israel worry about terrorists or rockets

- And then attention is turned to those who would come against God's people
- **Zechariah 14:12-15**
- It is impossible to say what the plague that causes their flesh, eyes, and tongues to dissolve is, but there is no reason to take this as figurative
- Whatever it is, it is terrible – probably not natural or a weapon of man
- But once judgment is out of the way people are free to worship God without fear
- **Zechariah 14:16-19**
- This is likely referring to the time when Jesus is ruling on the earth for one-thousand years in perfect peace – the Millennium
- God is worthy of our worship every day
- Today, people are getting away with not worshipping God
- During the Millennium, there will be immediate consequences for not doing so
- The world will be radically transformed after the Second Coming
- After wickedness has been punished and Christ reigns on the earth – this world will be restored to the way it was at the beginning – perfect
- Today, people give little or no thought to holiness
- But after Jesus establishes His kingdom on the earth that will change
- **Zechariah 14:20-21a**
- Many people mistakenly think that the word 'holiness' is equivalent to perfection
- Better words to define holiness are sacred, dedicated, or consecrated  
**Sacred: Dedicated to or set apart for the worship of a deity.**
- It also carries the idea of separation – from common use to sacred use
- When the garments for the High Priest were being created in Exodus 28 – the phrase 'Holiness to the Lord' was engraved onto a plate and worn on his hat
- When Christ reigns on the earth, even the most common things will be holy, sacred, set apart for holy use
- One of the problems with this world today is that people do whatever they feel like doing
- Jesus will put an end to that

- **Zechariah 14:21b**
- ‘Canaanite’ is synonymous with immorality and wickedness.
- This world is where it is because people are doing whatever they feel is right and good for them instead of what God says is good and right
- When Christ reigns, the world will know perfect peace, prosperity, and joy
- That is good news
- The bad news is that those who reject God’s plan for this world must experience the consequences of that choice
- This chapter began with the phrase ‘the day of the Lord is coming’
- That is not an idle threat – that terrible day will come
- The result is unprecedented suffering on the earth
- The good news for us is that Jesus will come get us before God judges this world – but we don’t know when
- How should we live as we wait?
- First – **Live as if Jesus could come back at any moment!**
- We must be careful of our attachments to this world
- We must live up to our obligations, duties, and responsibilities
- But we do that with the understanding that it all becomes obsolete when Jesus comes to get us
- Second – **Live as if Jesus is your King today!**
- If you are a believer in Jesus, He is your King
- That means you yield to His sovereign authority
- It means you trust Him to take care of you like a shepherd/king
- It means you let Him lead you through this life
- Third – **Live as Holiness to the Lord Jesus!**
- Examine your life – is it set apart for sacred use – for God’s use?
- Or is it all about you – or your life, family, dreams – or your happiness, fulfilment, success?
- Jesus is coming back – maybe soon!
- Let’s live like we believe that! **Pray**