

Zechariah 14:1-21
September 21, 2022

V. Oracle Concerning Israel (12:1-14:21)

A. Repentance of Judah (12:1-14)

B. Refinement of Judah (13:1-9)

C. The Second Coming of the Messiah (14:1-21)

As the book of Zechariah comes to a close, we reach what is surely one of the most majestic passages in the entire Old Testament. We've been in a prophetic portion for a good chunk of Zechariah, and it certainly ends on a high note.

Verses 1-2 reference the coming *day of the LORD*. There is no one singular *day of the LORD*, nor does the *day of the LORD* happen on one, 24-hour day. Simply put, the *day of the LORD* is any period of time in which the Lord intervenes in judgment over the earth. In this case, it is during the Tribulation period.

During Daniel's Seventieth Week, God will be drawing Israel back to Himself, as well as judging the world, through a series of judgments. In that time, *the nations will battle against Jerusalem* (v. 2), led by the coming Antichrist. While there will be great devastation at the hands of the Antichrist, yet God will preserve a *remnant of the people* who will not be driven away.

The Tribulation ends, however, with the Second Coming of Jesus. We read in v. 3 that *the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations* (v. 3). That *day of battle* begins with the LORD's *feet standing on the Mount of Olives* (v. 4). How fitting it was, then, that Jesus' main discourse on future things occurred on that very Mount of Olives, as recorded in Matthew 24-25.

[As an aside, note that Jesus' Second Coming to this earth is precisely that: His feet will land on the ground. This stands in contrast to the Rapture event, in which we will *meet the Lord in the air... in the clouds* (1 Thess 4:17). They are two separate events!]

Verses 6-7 seem to indicate that time will be reckoned differently during the Millennial Kingdom that follows the Second Coming; the normal

lights will be different. We know that the eternal state will have *no need of the sun or the moon* (Rev 21:23; cf. Isa 60:1-3; Rev 22:5), but Zechariah seems to state that the Millennial Kingdom will have similar features. Remember, we don't know much about the original state of the world before Adam and Eve fell. Perhaps a restored present earth will be strikingly similar to a new heavens and new earth.

In vv. 8-9, we read of how *living waters will flow from Jerusalem* on this day that *the LORD shall be King over all the earth*. This water flows out of the reconstructed Temple, and will result in a great flourishing of the land (cf. Ezek 47:1-12). On that day, there will be such agricultural abundance that the harvest won't be collected before it's time to plant again (cf. Amos 9:13).

During this Millennial Kingdom, there will be significant topographical changes to the earth. This will be especially needed after the seven years of destructive judgment during the Tribulation. This reconstruction includes the formation of a great plain between *Geba to Rimmon* (v. 10).

Those who live in Jerusalem will do safely (v. 11). As for those who sought to do Israel harm, they shall be faced with a grave *plague* (vv. 12-15), likely at the Second Coming. Verse 12 in particular is quite graphic!

Yet, for those who remain, they will *worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and they will keep the Feast of Tabernacles* (v. 16). Just as the Temple will be rebuilt during this period, so also will sacrifices and feasts be reinstated (cf. Ezek 20:40; 37:24-28 plus chapters 40-48). This is not a return to the Mosaic Law. Nevertheless, these feasts and sacrifices will serve their original goals: to point out sin and point to the Messiah. Just because the Messiah has already made atonement for sin and now physically rules over the earth doesn't mean the sacrifices no longer can serve those purposes!

As the book closes in vv. 20-21, we again see this universal knowledge and worship of the Lord. Certainly, there will be those that will not believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins during this time; however, the presence of Jesus Himself makes that stubborn refusal all the more striking!