

Back to the Basics

The End

In this Bible Study, we will have a memory verse that each one is encouraged to memorize and meditate on each day. Let's read together the memory verse that we say each week at the start and close of our meetings together:

John 3:3 (NIV)

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Prayer

John 1:14

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Obviously, many people know of the deity of Jesus, the fact that He is God, the fact that God dwelt among us, the fact that Jesus was crucified, dead, buried and rose again. Many people know of the eminent rapture of the church and many people know that He will return again to rule and reign in His Millennial Kingdom. This study is about the Day of the Lord, the bodily return of Christ to Earth, a study of Zechariah chapter 14. This study is the climax, the final end of human history, hence the name of this study, "The End". And it's a tremendous chapter, it's just loaded with prophecy, some of it is very, very amazing.

Let's do some sprinting through fundamental, Bible-based prophecy, to launch us to Zechariah 14:1. Let's realize what's happening. In the last days of Israel's history, the Bible prophesied that Israel would be regathered and we are seeing Israel regathered. In May 1948, they established their nation under a grant given to them by the United Nations. They are waiting the time of salvation. The Rapture of the Church will occur and a false Messiah will appear on the scene. The people of Israel will make a pact with the false Messiah, the Antichrist. And everything will go along fine during this seven-year covenant, but in the middle of this seven-year covenant this beast, this false Messiah will break his covenant with Israel. He will require that they worship him and him alone. And when the people of Israel refuse, he gathers the armies of the world together to march against Israel. And he comes against Israel under really the command of Satan to exterminate the Jews, the people of God. This leads to a siege of the city of Jerusalem and the land of Palestine we know as the battle of Armageddon.

Now it is precisely at the siege of Jerusalem that we pick up the fourteenth chapter. Here the armies of the world are gathered against Jerusalem. Now when the siege begins, it's basically successful to start with. There is tremendous blood shed. There is tremendous devastation. The book of Revelation says the blood will be to the depth of the horses' bridles for an area of 200 miles. There is going to be blood shed like the world has never seen. There is going to be a holocaust in the land. There is going to be a seeming victory on the part of Antichrist and his hosts. And precisely at the point where this victory looks secure is when Christ returns. And that's what we have in the fourteenth chapter.

The chapter opens then with the defeated Jerusalem, stripped of its possessions, stripped of its honor, conquered by the world's armies. And the conquerors in fact are reveling in their spoils, having a great old time thinking they've won their battle just precisely when Jesus returns to turn the tide of battle totally.

Zechariah 14:1

¹A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

Now the opening phrase “A day of the Lord is coming” is kind of an announcement all by itself. When the Scripture speaks of the Day of the Lord, it is a period of time. Used in this sense, the day of the Lord refers to not one day but a period of time. We use the word “day” in the same way. We say this is the day of space travel or this is the day of corporate greed or this is the day of the homeless. We use it in that sense and that's the way it's used in when the Scripture says, The Day of the Lord. It is interesting that this is the only place in Scripture where this speaks of a day of the Lord. This can only mean the one specific hour and day the Lord is coming, and not a period of time.

The day of the Lord is a period of time beginning with the rapture of the church and extending through the millennial kingdom. It covers the Tribulation time when the Lord takes back the earth. It covers the conquering of the nations at Armageddon. It covers the judgment of the nations. It covers the establishment of the Kingdom. It covers the reign of Jesus Christ on earth for a thousand years. It covers the vanquishing of Satan. It covers the time block from the Rapture to the end of the Kingdom. That whole era of the end of history is the day of the Lord.

As we come to chapter 14, Israel is under siege by the armies of the world. Now Daniel's prophecy and the book of Revelation state there are four armies that gather against Israel. This will involve the army of the north (probably the Russian nations and some Arab confederacy), the armies from the south, the armies from the west (revived Roman Empire) and the armies of the east (perhaps a Red Chinese confederacy). And this is what we see as we begin the chapter.

And there seems to be a victory. They seem to have won their day. They seem to have accomplished their goal because it says in verse 1, “your plunder will be divided among you.” Now the “your” here is Jerusalem, and the “you” is Jerusalem. We know this because of the form, the feminine form, in the Hebrew. That is the antecedent, Jerusalem, which appears in the next verse.

Now it is very uncommon, for an enemy to come in and conquer a place and then divide the spoil right in the middle of town. Usually they'll haul off the riches that they've gained. But most likely, because of the many nations involved, they want to divide it up equally before heading home. So, they are sitting there, leisurely going about the dividing of the spoil and the booty as if they were taunting the inhabitants that were remaining in Jerusalem. And it is that very moment that God begins to turn the tide of the battle. And Jerusalem's calamity becomes God's opportunity.

Zechariah 14:2

²I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

Let's start looking at verse 2, “I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it”. The armies and the nations are there because they have been gathered by God. In other words,

they have not made their own decision to go to Jerusalem to fight. They are not even accomplishing Satan's task; they are there under the sovereign control of God.

And God has gathered them for two reasons. Reason number one, God is going to use them as an agency to purge out the rebels among His people. When that great battle of Armageddon comes and when those nations come and when they slaughter the ones they do, they're going to be cleaning out and chastening and judging those that have been unbelieving within the nation of Israel. Secondly, He gathers them there in order to ultimately punish them as well. So God gathers all the nations to act as a judgment agency against Israel, even as there was a time in history when Israel was used as a judgment agency against other nations, and secondly, to bring them to the place of judgment also.

Now notice, he says in verse 2, "I will gather all the nations." Now there are going to be representatives from all over the world. The armies of the world literally are going to converge on that little area.

Revelation 16:13-14

¹³Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

In Revelation chapter 16 we get a further look at this. In other words, these demons are going to gather the kings from all over the whole world to join in these great armies and they're all going to come against Israel. And God will use them as agencies of judgment and God will gather them there to be judged as well.

Notice that it's going to happen at Jerusalem. This will be the focal point of the battle. We call it the battle of Armageddon because the Bible calls it that in Revelation 16. They will extend from the plain of Megiddo on the north, clear down really to Jerusalem and beyond to the south, and cover the whole land. Much of the battle will occur on the Plain of Megiddo, much of it will occur in the city of Jerusalem. So both Megiddo and Jerusalem figure prominently in this battle.

Zechariah 14:2

²I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

This is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy in:

Jeremiah 30:5-7

⁵"This is what the LORD says: "Cries of fear are heard - terror, not peace. ⁶Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? ⁷How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

This is the climax of the time of Jacob's trouble. Jacob is in more trouble now than Jacob has ever been.

And four things occur. Number one, the city is taken. Number two, the houses are plundered. Number three, the women are raped. Number four, half the city is taken prisoners of war. It looks very bad. The invaders are so smug, they're there dividing their spoil. Then we come to

the next part of the verse, “[the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.](#)” Approximately a half of the Jewish people apparently at that time are going to fall under the judgment of God whereas the other half are going to be spared because most likely they are the believing remnant. They are the believing remnant.

[Zechariah 14:3](#)

[³Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.](#)

It looks as if everything is now lost. You've only got half of the people left. Now we go to a great, great statement in verse 3, “[Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.](#)” Now God is not about to allow the enemy to destroy the true remnant, the believing remnant, those who are ready to put faith in the Messiah, those who are like those baptized by John the Baptist, a people prepared for His coming. And I believe that in order to prevent that, God moves in and He goes forth to fight against those nations.

And He comes in an hour when an apparent disaster is looming, an hour that looks like victory for the anti-God, Antichrist forces.

[Exodus 15:3](#)

[The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.](#)

Exodus 15:3 calls the Lord a man of war. He is called all over the place in the Old Testament the Lord of armies, the Lord of hosts. Again and again He's fighting for Israel. And here He comes again. And He comes to fight against the nations as when He fought in the day of battle. The day of battle was when Joshua won the victory at Gibeon. The day of battle was when Canaan was conquered. The day of battle was the great defeat of Sisera by Barak. And when He comes, He'll come in the form of Jesus Christ.

So, what do we have then in the first three verses? We have the nations assembled to war against Palestine, the city has been taken and plundered. The spoil is being divided in the city. Half of the people remain. And all of a sudden the Lord arrives to fight. And let's go to verse 4 and see where He arrives first.

[**Zechariah 14:4** ⁴On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.](#)

Where is He going to return? Some people think it is Vatican City, but it isn't. It's the Mount of Olives. He's going to come and His feet are going to stand on the Mount of Olives. This is a tremendous statement this is about the deity of Jesus Christ. How could it be that Jehovah's feet could ever stand on the Mount of Olives and for that matter, how is it that Jehovah even has feet? He who came in human form will come again in human form.

[Acts 1:11](#)

[“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”](#)

He'll come in the same physical literal personal visible form as when He left to that mount. That's a special mountain. Now let's go on in the verse.

“And the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”

Now this is an earthquake! The book of Revelation talks about similar things.

Revelation 16:18-19

Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. ¹⁹And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. ²¹And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent **<100 pounds>**: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Now you've got a worldwide cataclysm generated by some kind of a supernatural cosmic earthquake when the feet of Jesus Christ hit the Mount of Olives. Not exactly like the baby born in the manger the first time He came. He comes in worldwide power and immediately the world is going to know He arrived.

The earthquake is going to cause the creation of a valley. So in order to facilitate a hasty exit for the depressed people who are undergoing the siege, the Lord Jesus hits the mountain, splits the mountain wide open, creates a valley and God's people Israel can flee right through that open pass.

Zechariah 14:5

⁵You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

And they'll flee through that channel, “You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel.” Now the word “Azal” in Hebrew means “near.” And it is apparent that in that period of time, the location very near to Israel on the east was an area known as Azel. And what he's saying is that the valley is going to split wide open right up near the city. So you don't have to run a long way down and up any hills to get to that open channel of escape, that thing is going to split right open right up near the city so that there will be immediate access.

And now look at the great statement of the deity of Jesus Christ, “Then the LORD my God will come.” It is His feet on the Mount of Olives. The angel said this same Jesus shall so come in like manner as you've seen Him go. You saw Him leave physically, personally, bodily, literally, visibly from the Mount of Olives, that's the way He'll return. And this same Jesus is here called the Lord my God. He's going to come.

Now Zechariah sees the same scene in another manifestation, in another vision, another revelation from God. And he sees at the end of verse 5, “Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.” In other words, when Jesus comes, He's going to be accompanied by the angels, He's going to be accompanied by the church and He's also going to be accompanied by the Old Testament saints who at that time will be resurrected to be gathered with Him to constitute the army of righteous people coming out of heaven.

1 Thessalonians 3:13

¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Here He is saying I want you to be ready for that time. I want you to be a part of that.

Colossians 3:4 ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Jude 1:14 ¹⁴Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.

Revelation 19:14 ¹⁴And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

You remember the story about Moses? He went up into the mountain, God was there and God revealed Himself to Moses and when Moses saw the glory of God. You remember what happened? He got glory all over his face. He came down the mountain and he didn't know, it says, that his face shone, it was like a light bulb. And it says he veiled his face because the glory was fading and he didn't want the people to see the glory fade. You see, in our bodies, in our human instruments, the glory fades very fast even when seeing the revelation of the afterglow of God on the mount, it didn't last in Moses' case. But there will come a time when you will be lifted from one level of glory to another level of glory, to another level and finally that ultimate level of glory when you become in the image of Jesus Christ, able to manifest the full blazing glory of God Himself. Now, look ...

Philippians 3:21

²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

We're going to be like Christ. We're going to radiate and be reflectors the divine glory of God. How about Colossians 3:4?

Colossians 3:4

⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

You see, we're not going to be these crummy little creatures like we are now, running around this heaven of glory. We're just not going to be what we are here on earth. We're going to be reflectors of the glory, we're going to be like Jesus Christ transfigured. Oh, what a marvelous incomprehensible reality. And then, a common theme in Scripture is that His glory shall fill the entire earth.

Numbers 14:21

Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth,

Psalms 72:19

¹⁹Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

Psalms 108:5

⁵Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.

Isaiah 6:3

³And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 60:2

²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Habakkuk 2:14

¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Now we already know that He's going to be accompanied by the church and the Old Testament saints and everyone will be front and center when the Lord does battle against the ungodly. The Scripture also say that His glory will fill the earth. Although I cannot be dogmatic, I believe that the Lord will then dispatch His holy ones (church and Old Testament saints) throughout the entire earth to then reign with him. Every person then living on earth, being in thick darkness will suddenly see His holy ones bringing light of the reflected glory of the Lord and giving glory to the Lord. Questions will be asked and answers given. This is a fantastic day for not only for Jerusalem but the entire earth.

Zechariah 14:6

⁶On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost.

In other words, when Jesus comes, all of the stars and the suns of heaven are going to go out. The sky and the heavens are going to just be black; all the lights are going to go out.

Isaiah 13:9-10

⁹Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. ¹⁰For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isaiah 24:23

²³Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Matthew 24:29

²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Revelation 6:12-14

¹²I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

And in the midst of the blackness comes the blazing revelation of Jesus Christ with all His saints. And at that moment Israel is going to turn and look and they're going to believe and they're going to turn to their Messiah and they're going to be wonderfully saved and spared judgment and gathered into the Kingdom.

And then, what does the rest of the world do?

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

The next verse in Zechariah gives us another thought of the uniqueness of the day.

Zechariah 14:7

⁷It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime - a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light.

This is going to be the only day of its kind. Only He can know all that it involves, it won't be day and it won't be night, it will come to pass that at evening time, it will be light. In other words, the whole of nature is just going to go into an imbalance. The whole thing is out of perspective. All that we understand as night and day is going to be ended at that point. All the stars fall, the suns and the moons are all gone. And Christ comes and it's a new kind of day. And He will become day so that even when it's evening it will be light because He'll be coming in blazing glory. Blazing out of heaven and for all who fall into that light in faith, there will be instant salvation. For all who curse the light, there will be instant judgment.

Zechariah 14:8

⁸On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.

And verse 8 says, in that day that the living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, half of them toward the former sea, half of them toward the hinder sea, and summer and winter shall it be. Jerusalem's going to be dramatically changed.

You know what's going to happen? Right in the middle of Jerusalem, which is Mount Moriah where the temple would be, right in the middle underneath that rock that's there, somehow God's going to crack open the ground and create a gushing spring that's going to send rivers running in both directions, east and west. There is going to be one river toward the Dead Sea to the east and toward the Mediterranean to the west.

Living waters in the Hebrew means "gurgling, running, flowing, rushing, bubbling water," not stagnant water. Ezekiel 47: 1-12 says that in the millennial earth there will be life giving streams gushing out of the sanctuary. It's very likely that God will just split the temple ground open. He'll just split that rock Moriah and send that thing going both directions, perennially in summer and winter throughout the Kingdom.

Zechariah 14:9 ⁹The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Verse 9 begins with the crowning of the Lord as King. This is a promised reality. The King is coming. And He is going to be King. And in that day, it says, He'll be King. Now watch this, "there will be one LORD, and his name the only name".

Do you know how many religions there will be in the world in the Kingdom? There will be just one. Anybody who begins to start another one will be dealt with by the rod of iron with which

Christ rules (Revelation 19). And the absolutely unique and incomparable one God, the only wise God and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, Him and Him alone will the world worship. And so in that day there will be one Lord and His name will be one.

Zechariah 14:10

¹⁰The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

Now look, the land shall be turned like the Arabah. When Christ comes, this tremendous earthquake takes place and He creates this valley running east, Mount Moriah somehow is split and water starts to flow everywhere. The judgment of the nations takes place. And as a result of this great earthquake, the entire terrain from Geba to Rimmon is going to become like the Arabah. Geba is six miles north of Jerusalem and Rimmon is about thirty-five miles south of Jerusalem. And Arabah is the name of the valley that is the deepest valley in the world. It runs from far south of the Dead Sea where it may be as high in some places as 300 feet above sea level, down to the Dead Sea where it is 1300 feet below sea level, and all the way to the Sea of Galilee where at the Sea of Galilee it is 650 feet below sea level, it is the lowest longest flattest valley in the world.

And what the Scripture is saying is that all the terrain around Jerusalem from Geba on the north to Rimmon on the south is going to be flattened and lowered to be made like that valley so that Jerusalem will literally stick up like a solitaire diamond on a ring. That's what it is saying. The whole earth is going to go flat and sunk all around it so Jerusalem will just ascend out of the ground. And on that flat plateau will be the throne of Jesus Christ. The whole land made flat and Jerusalem shall be lifted up. What a day.

Zechariah 14:11

¹¹It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.

No more destruction. No more curse. Why? Well, no more idolatry, no more apostasy. And so there's no more curse. That's coronation day. Not only is the Lord crowned, but the city is crowned and it becomes the jewel of the earth and Christ is crowned King and sits on the throne in that city. What a day.

So, first we have the coming of the day of the Lord and then the crowning of the Lord as King. Thirdly, we have the conquest and the judgment of the nations.

Zechariah 14:12-13

¹²This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. ¹³On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other.

Look at what's going to happen to the godless people. Three things, first there is going to be a deadly plague. It is God who gives life, right? God breathed into man and he became a living soul. And it is God who can withdraw life. And I believe that God at this point will withdraw life so fast and so complete that they will rot and become skeletons before they're able to even fall to the ground. That's how fast God will withdraw life and deal with the ungodly.

And then he adds to another thing that's going to happen, and I don't know the sequence of these things and I don't know all how it fits together, "But it will come to pass in that day that a great tumult from the Lord," and the word "tumult" means a confusion or consternation, and they'll confuse themselves and they literally will lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor. In other words, what's going to happen is there will be such confusion at that moment that those who are not instantly hit with the plague are going to find themselves killing each other, terrible confusion, attacking and slaughtering each other.

And then thirdly, somehow God is going to give to Judah a great strength and Judah is going to fight and win. So there will be a plague for some, a confused suicide by the nations and a super human strength given to Judah.

Zechariah 14:14

¹⁴Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected - great quantities of gold and silver and clothing.

And the results, in verse 14, the tables are turned immediately and here are these nations counting all their booty, the reverse occurs, the wealth of all the nations is going to be gathered and brought into the hands of God's people.

Zechariah 14:15

¹⁵A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps.

And so there's going to be a plague that not only takes care of the people but all their possessions and animals and everything. The whole encampment is going to go. In that day perhaps that has to do with some of their weaponry. And so we see the conquest of the nations, the crowning of the Lord, the coming of the day of the Lord.

Now that the ungodly are judged, Christ is on the throne, the land is flattened, Jerusalem is a solitary diamond on the globe, Jesus is reigning on the throne, the people of God have received Jesus Christ, the remnant is ready, they're ready to take their Kingdom, and now we look at the character of the Kingdom.

Zechariah 14:16

¹⁶Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

This says there is going to be the believing remnant out of all the nations. They're literally going to come out of those nations which came against Jerusalem, though they themselves did not agree with what their nation did. And these people will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of host, and keep the feast of tabernacles. You see, the feast of tabernacles celebrated the time when God was with Israel in the tabernacles in the wilderness. And here it is fulfilled, you see. In that day God comes down and His glory again tabernacles with His people and so they celebrate that feast again. Annually the people of the world are going to come to keep the feast.

Zechariah 14:17

¹⁷If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.

In other words, if the people from nations don't come, God' i going to turn off the rain and it won't rain. And if it doesn't rain, they'll have a drought. And if they a drought, they're going to have a disaster.

And there would be one nation that would say, "We don't mind if it doesn't rain, we don't depend on rain." And that nation would be Egypt. Because Egypt might say, "Well, we have the Nile and, you see, the Nile is fed by those little lakes in the mountains and they drip the water down and the Nile comes. And the winter rains way away in the mountains in the south and the snows when they all melt, they cause this Nile to inundate the land. And so, Egypt says, "Well, maybe we'll be a little smug and we won't mind if it rains."

Zechariah 14:18

¹⁸If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

He says if the rain doesn't get you, the plague will. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. When God sets up His Kingdom and He reigns, He says the world is going to worship. And it's not going to be optional. And so they'll keep the feast of tabernacles, they'll celebrate again the time when God came in His glory and tented with His people.

Zechariah 14:20-21

²⁰On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. ²¹Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite[£] in the house of the LORD Almighty.

Notice the little phrase in verse 20 "HOLY TO THE LORD". That phrase is very special. The high priest Aaron had a turban, on the front of his turban was a gold plate and engraved on that gold plate were the words, "HOLY TO THE LORD." It meant that there was something about that man that set him apart from every other man. He was an uncommon man. He was especially holy. He was unique. But he says in that day every single thing that exists is going to be just as holy as the high priest, even the little bells that ding on the horses are going to say holiness unto the Lord.

The Lord wants a holy people, doesn't He? He's called His church to be holy. He wants a holy church. He wants a holy people. And in that day He's going to have it. The theme of Zechariah 14, it's simply the reigning of Christ. I hope you caught his vision. And I hope you know the Christ he looked forward to.

Prayer

God's Word is true, correct and accurate in every detail. Continue reading John chapter one each day. We will be starting with John 1:4 next week and will begin to move rapidly through the Chapters. Let's read John 3:3 together.

John 3:3 (NIV)

3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."