

Zechariah 14

The Lord Protects His People

Text: Zechariah 14

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Zechariah showed that the Messiah would protect His people and be victorious over His enemies...

I. THE BACKGROUND

(ZECHARIAH 9 - 13)

- A. In the time of Zechariah, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple had just been rebuilt.
- B. God had revealed that He would bring the Messiah into the world by preserving Israel.
- C. Yet, He also warned of the coming fall of Jerusalem and the Jewish system (Ch. 11).
- D. Finally, Zechariah's focus was shifted to the victory of the Christ and His church.
- E. Spiritual Jerusalem was shown to be a stone that cannot be moved (12:3; Heb. 12:28).
- F. The Messiah would be pierced, making God's grace available to all man and causing godly sorrow that would lead many to repentance (12:10; John 19:34).
- G. As a result, a fountain would be opened in which all sin and impurity could be cleansed (13:1; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
- H. The Savior would be smitten and the sheep scattered, yet a remnant would be preserved - though they would pass through purifying trials.

II. THE PROPHECY OF PROTECTION

(ZECHARIAH 14:1-11)

- A. This passage paints a picture of spiritual Jerusalem (the church) being continually oppressed and persecuted by the world.
 1. Note that this is "the day of the LORD" - a judgment of God in which He fights against His enemies and battles for His people.
 2. That this is not physical Jerusalem is made clear in verse 2 - "*the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*"
 3. When the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70, all the people were cut off from the city.
 4. Josephus wrote: "Now as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury ...Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple" (Wars, Book VII, 1:1).
- B. This persecution was exemplified by Rome's attacks on the church, yet it would continue throughout time (cf. Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 13:7).

Prophecy of Jesus

- C. But, just as God had fought for His people in the past, He would continue to fight for and protect them.
- D. His protection is seen in His standing upon the Mount of Olives and causing it to be cleft asunder, providing a way (valley) of escape for those under attack.
 - 1. The imagery is symbolic, not literal.
 - 2. Think of the faithful at the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15-22).
 - 3. Think of the deliverance of the church from persecution (Acts 8).
 - 4. Think of the destruction of Rome (Rev. 19).
 - 5. Think of a way of escape from temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
- E. Even in the day of darkness, there was the light of hope in God.
- F. The living waters of salvation were available to all continually.
 - 1. The availability of this living water had been prophesied earlier (Ezekiel 47:1-12; Joel 3:18).
 - 2. Of course, this living water was provided by Jesus (John 4:10, 14; 7:37-38).
 - 3. The fountain would begin to flow at Jerusalem (cf. Luke 24:47) but would reach out into the entire world (Revelation 22:17).
- G. As salvation is available to the entire world, God – through Christ – is King of the entire earth (cf. 9:9-10; Revelation 11:15).
- H. There is safety in spiritual Jerusalem for God is its protector.

III. THE PROMISE OF PLAGUE

(ZECHARIAH 14:12-21)

- A. The enemies of God and the church are under the curse of a plague – dead while they are living.
 - 1. The enemy will be soundly defeated.
 - 2. Anything used to fight against God will be destroyed.
- B. All nations – Jew and Gentile – would gather together to worship the Lord with thanksgiving for atonement.
 - 1. This includes a remnant from those who fought against God and His people.
 - 2. The language describes the Feast of Tabernacles.
- C. Those who do not turn to the Lord will be left without rain – a spiritual drought; for, there are no spiritual blessing outside of Christ (Eph. 1:3). {*Note Isaiah 19:23-25; 60:12; and Micah 5:15 for prophecies about Egypt.*}
- D. In the Lord's kingdom, all instruments – weapons, bowls, pots, etc. – would be set apart for His service – nothing unclean would be present (cf. Eph. 5:26-27).

Conclusion: What a blessing it is to be a member of the Lord's church!