

Zech 14:1-21

Session Thirteen, Zechariah

Luther: "Here, in this chapter, I give up. For I am not sure what the prophet is talking about." His Latin commentary completely omits chapter 14!

Zech 14 provides John with a map to articulate his vision in Revelation 20-22.

- 1) Nations gather against Jerusalem. (Zech 14:2; Rev 20:7-9)
- 2) God resurrects people (Zech 14:5; Rev. 20:12-13)
- 3) Night is banished (Zech 14:7; Rev 21:25; 22:5)
- 4) God gives eternal light (Zech 14:7; Rev 21:23-24; 22:5)
- 5) God gives living water (Zech 14:8; Rev. 21:6; 22:1-2, 17)
- 6) God reigns forever (Zech 14: 9, 16, 17; Rev. 21:5)
- 7) The holy mountain is established (Zech 14:10; Rev 21:10)
- 8) Curses are removed (Zech 14:11; Rev 22:3)
- 9) Jerusalem becomes holy (Zech 14:20-21; Rev 21:2, 27; 22:15)

Chiastic Structure

- A YHWH fights against the nations (14:1-3)
 B Condemning false prophets and idolaters (14:4-5)
 C The land is transformed (14:6-8)
 D YHWH is king over all the earth (14:9)
 C' The land is transformed (14:10-11)
 B' YHWH protects Jerusalem (14:12-15)
A' The nations worship YHWH (14:16-21)

What is this chapter about?

- the acclamation that YHWH is King is the theological center
- the final, eschatological battle and victory of YHWH; and more: the convulsion of creation, YHWH's universal rule, Jerusalem's security, and cosmic holiness
- it "is language stretched the breaking point to describe the indescribable" (Lessing, 502)
- the word "all" appears _____ times in Zechariah 14, so it has a global implication

"It is as though the entire Old Testament Scriptures as Zechariah knew them are being ransacked for images and language to express the wonder of what is happening at this climactic moment. Everything has been confessed, prophesied, sung about, and hoped for has at last come to fulfillment" (Lessing, 521).

"The theme of _____ holds Zechariah 14 together. The prophet describes how the city's geography and climate will change so that it functions as an *axis mundi* where nations will come and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. In the end, from YHWH's house in Jerusalem, he will restore the entire world to its perfect state of holiness" (Lessing, 524).

Zechariah 14:1-3

This is a heightened replay of the Babylonian nightmare in 587 BC.

Christ _____ from the Mount of Olives. It is 100 feet higher than any section of Jerusalem.

How do you split a mountain? This is an echo of the _____ event.

YHWH alone _____ for His people!

Zechariah 14:4-5

V. 4 “feet will stand” implies ownership of the land. See Amos 4:13, Micah 1:2-4.

Who is speaking in v. 5?

The massive earthquake does two things:

Who are the holy ones (v. 5)? God brings people with Him back to Jerusalem. See Mt 27:51-53; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

Zechariah 14:6-9

The geography and climate of Jerusalem are not conducive to agricultural stability and bounty: uneven landscape, unpredictable rainfall, temperature extremes.

How will the new creation be different?

Jesus is living water (John 7:38).

Zechariah 14:10-11

“The specific city of Jerusalem is the locus for God’s involvement with all people. It is the ‘center of the nations’—the conduit through which YHWH channels his blessings to the world (Ezek 5:5)” (Lessing, 533).

Names for Jerusalem:

“YHWH Is There” (Ezek 48:35)

“the Holy City” (Is 52:1)

“the City of YHWH” (Is 60:14)

“the Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (Is 60:14)

“the Throne of YHWH” (Jer 3:17)

Zechariah 14:12-15

Here, the focus shifts from Jerusalem to the nations.

It's not that Judah fights "against" Jerusalem, but fights "in" Jerusalem (v. 14).

When else has Israel plundered the land and taken silver and gold? (Ex. 12:35-36; Deut 20:14-18; Is 60:4-14; Hag 2:7-8).

Zechariah 14:16-21

Why Booths/Tabernacles? It's the _____ feast. The big concept here is that Gentiles also are participating in the Feast. How was it celebrated over eight days? Day one, build a booth. For the next week, each day, the high priest would take a golden pitcher and proceed from the temple to the Pool of Siloam. A procession of people would follow and they would speak the Hallel Psalms (113-118). Hallel means _____ and these are "psalms of ascent" as Jerusalem was always about going up. Read Psalm 118 as it is deeply messianic. The people cry, "Hoshiana!" which is where we get the word, "Hosanna!" It means: "Save us now!" Hosanna comes from Psalm 118:25.

How do the palms relate to Feast of Tabernacles? Generally, the rabbis taught: "Whatever time of year the Messiah was to appear the Jews were to greet and hail Him by taking up the lulav clusters and singing hosannas to Him as the Holy One of Israel (Pesikta de Rab Kahana 27:3).

As a prayer for God to send rain for the coming season, the priest would pour out the water each day from the golden pitcher after making one lap around the altar, but on the 7th day (in the 7th month), the priest would circle the altar seven times.

Jesus observed the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7-9!). It's in this context that Jesus says what about water (John 7:37-39)? Note how this is a fulfillment of prophecy from Is. 44:3-4.

Everything Will Be Holy

Even the bells on horses and mundane cooking utensils will be holy to YHWH. In terms of sacredness, the "pot" was at the bottom of the ladder. It was the most mundane. Now it has a new dignity.... 'All food will have the status of sacrifice, and all consumption of good will have a sacral quality'" (Lessing, 536).

Banishment of everything unholy: Canaanites or traders? Those who extort profits out of the worshippers. 'Once the King comes, money-making will no longer mar the Temple courts, nor merchants' greed take the joy out of sacrificial giving" (Lessing, 537).

This chapter began with Jerusalem besieged by enemy armies intent on its destruction. God's people are weak, vulnerable and taken captive. However, look how the chapter ends! Every square inch of that same city is now inscribed 'holy to YHWH'" (Lessing, 536).

“Thus this great prophecy concludes with God accomplishing his intended program. Israel has been transformed into a people worthy of its calling, the hostile world powers have been judged and the once-rejected Messiah now reigns supreme in a world of redeemed Jews and Gentiles that is blessed by His presence” (Baker Illustrated Study Bible).