

Zechariah 14:1-15

## “Behold the Day of the Lord”

Today’s study will dispel any myths that the future life that the Lord has prepared for us will be boring and uneventful. We have a glorious future.

The idea that we will be sitting around on clouds in the sky, playing harps all day does not come from the Bible. We are going to see what the Bible says about our future.

This chapter is describing God’s rescue of the people of Israel, but Zechariah 14:5 says that all the saints (that includes us) will be with Him when He does this.

Keep in mind that chapters 12, 13 and 14 are all one extended prophetic message.

In this chapter there are some things prophesied that, according to human judgment, seem impossible.

God anticipated this, so He began the prophecy with these words in *Zechariah 12:1*, “**Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.**” In other words, God created everything—it is no problem for Him rearrange it any way He wants.

And God gave each of us our life—He is free to take it away any time He chooses.

Chapter 14 begins by continuing the description of the overwhelming military campaign of all the armies of the world ganging up on Israel for the purpose of utterly destroying the Jews. The Bible says this will take place at the end of the Tribulation.

Chapter 12 talked a lot about this, and now chapter 14 is filling in more of the details.

Look at the opening words of the chapter, “**Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...**”

The day of the LORD is not referring to a specific, 24-hour date on the calendar. But in this context, look at every time the phrase “*in that day*,” is repeated in this chapter, and you will see that the day of the LORD is referring to the final days of the Tribulation when the Lord Jesus returns to earth, and destroys the enemies of Israel, and brings salvation to the Jews, and establishes His kingdom on earth.

All of this, in chapter 14, is referred to as, “*the day of the LORD.*”

***Zechariah 14:1-2, “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. <sup>2</sup> For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be***

***taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.***

Verses 1 and 2 portray Israel's condition of defeat and destruction at the hands of all her enemies in the final days before Jesus returns.

In judgment, God is bringing the nation of Israel to the very end of themselves—He is bringing them to a point of hopelessness and despair so that, as we saw in chapter 13, He might show them mercy. Their eyes will be opened to recognize Jesus as their Savior.

Then verses three and following portray how the tables are turned in Israel's favor when the Lord comes back to earth.

***Zechariah 14:3, "Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle."***

"As He fights in the day of battle", is believed to be an expression referring to the day that the Lord delivered Israel from Pharaoh's army by drowning them all in the Red Sea. When the battle was over, there was not a single person of Israel's enemy left alive.

As He delivered Israel then at the Red Sea, so God will deliver Israel in the coming day of the Lord. The book of Revelation has many parallels with the exodus of Israel from the land of Egypt.

In fact, some refer to the Tribulation as the second Exodus.

The occasion in history being described in Zechariah 14 is the same event that John describes in ***Revelation 19:11-16***,

*"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."*

The verses that follow in Revelation 19 are describing the same battle being described in Zechariah 14.

***Zechariah 14:4, "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west..."***

We will come back to look at this passage more closely, but let's jump ahead to verse 13 where we see the effect of the appearance of Jesus and the accompanying earthquake, upon the armies of the Antichrist.

***Zechariah 14:13, "It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand..."***

This describes the sheer panic-stricken fear that will grip the armies of the Antichrist which are surrounding the city of Jerusalem, they are bringing destruction upon the Jews of the city, when suddenly Jesus Christ appears on the Mount of Olives, which overlooks the city.

Jesus will appear right in the middle of that battle, with the armies of heaven following Him.

And the Bible indicates that we will be accompanying Jesus on that day. We will witness this amazing scene first-hand.

Now let's go back a few verses and look at the grand finale of this battle, when the Lord, with a mighty word from His mouth destroys all the remaining enemy and instantly brings the whole battle to an end.

Just a warning, this is a bit graphic. But there is nothing pleasant about the end that will come to those who reject their Creator and their Lord after He gave His life for them.

***Zechariah 14:12-14, "And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: "Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."***

This is the power of God's word—He only had to speak and the world came into existence, and He will only have to speak and the wicked will be destroyed.

It has been noted that such instant dissolving of the flesh is similar to what happened when the atomic bombs exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan at the end of World War 2. The bomb instantly killed over 129,000 people.

Many of those closest to the blast were instantly vaporized by the intense heat and radiation of the bomb.

Jesus is not going to use a nuclear bomb against His enemies, but the Bible indicates that He will speak in His fury and wrath and the power of His spoken word will literally and instantly melt His enemies.

Let us be thankful that our God is a merciful God. And let us not complain that the wicked are getting away with their injustice.

One day every human being on earth will have to stand before this awesome judge and give an account for our lives.

Praise God that we have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and we have been made acceptable and loveable and have been placed into the family of God.

*Isaiah 11:4 NLT*, “...*The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.*”

*Revelation 14:20*, graphically describes this same event: “*And the winepress was trampled* [the winepress of the wrath of God. The wicked are metaphorically described as grapes that are crushed under the feet of God], *outside the city* [the city of Jerusalem where the armies of the Antichrist were in the process of exterminating all of the Jews], *and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs* [300 kilometers].”

This was a massive army that was gathered to gang up against God’s people.

Okay, now let’s go back to verse four which we want to look at more closely. Because not only will Jesus’ arrival bring judgment against His enemies, but His arrival will greatly transform the face of the earth.

*Zechariah 14:4a*, “*And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east...*”

In Luke’s Gospel we are told that after His resurrection, Jesus took His disciples onto the Mount of Olives and from there He ascended into heaven.

And when He had disappeared from their sight two angels appeared and said to Jesus disciples in *Acts 1:11*, “*This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*”

*Zechariah 14:4b*, “*...And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.*”

Remember, that the last thing we read in verse three is that when the Lord returns, He fights for Israel as in the day of battle”, a reference to His deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians at the Red Sea.

Then, in the next verse, as the Lord parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could escape from the Egyptians, so, when He comes again, He will part the Mount of Olives making a way of escape for the Jews.

***Zechariah 14:5, “Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah...”***

What is the earthquake in the days of Uzziah? We know nothing about it except that it was briefly mentioned in Amos 1:1.

***Amos 1:1, “The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”***

It was such a major earthquake that they still spoke about it 200 years later in Zechariah’s day.

But this earthquake that occurs in the day of the Lord, when Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives, is described as the greatest earthquake ever to come upon the earth.

***Isaiah 24:19-21, “The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly.<sup>20</sup> The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again.<sup>21</sup> It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth.”***

***Revelation 16:18-20, “And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.<sup>19</sup> Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.<sup>20</sup> Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”***

***Zechariah 14:5b, “...Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You.”***

Who are all these saints which will come with the Lord when He returns?

The saints believed to be the resurrected Old Testament believers (Dan. 12:1-2), and they are all the believers from the Church age who were resurrected and raptured—we will be there (Rev. 19:8, 14), and perhaps also all who came to faith during the Tribulation but died before the return of Christ.

***Zechariah 14:6, “It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish.”***

***Isaiah 13:9-10, “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.<sup>10</sup> For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.<sup>11</sup> “I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.”***

(See also Joel 3:15-16)

***Zechariah 14:7, “It shall be one day which is known to the LORD—neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.”***

So, at first there is darkness. We aren’t told how long the darkness lasts, but the darkness will be followed by brilliant light, beginning at the time of day when it should be dark.

***Isaiah 30:26, “Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.”***

***Zechariah 14:8, “And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.”***

where there is presently no river in Jerusalem today, there will be rivers of water that will begin to flow from Jerusalem at the return of Christ, at the end of the Tribulation.

We aren’t told how many rivers will flow from Jerusalem, but half of them will flow toward the Dead Sea in the east and half of them will flow to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. So, the wording implies multiple rivers.

***Joel 3:18, “And it will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; a fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Acacias.”***

There is a very interesting passage in Psalm 46. As we read it note the many references to the same future events that we are studying in Zechariah.

***Psalm 46:1-7, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah***

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. <sup>6</sup> The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

***Ezekiel 47:1-12, “Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.***

<sup>3</sup> And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. <sup>6</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

<sup>7</sup> When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. <sup>9</sup> And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. <sup>10</sup> It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. <sup>11</sup> But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. <sup>12</sup> Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

***Zechariah 14:9, “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—“The LORD is one,” And His name one.”***

There will be no other competing god or ruler on the face of the earth in that day.

***Zechariah 14:10, “All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses.”***

Two major changes in the geography of Israel are described in this verse: First, much of the land surrounding Jerusalem, which today is presently very hilly, will be turned into a plain.

Secondly the city will be elevated above its present height so that Jerusalem will tower over the surrounding area and will be visible from a great distance away.

***Zechariah 14:11, “The people shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.”***

In other words, from this point on, throughout the next one thousand years of the Millennial Kingdom, the Jewish people will live peacefully and safely in Jerusalem, and will never again fear destruction.

The prophet Isaiah gave us a peek at what life for these people will be like:

*Isaiah 65:20-23, “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. <sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”*

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