

Zech. 14:1-11 "The Unique Day"

For the Children: Can you think of a day that sticks in your memory as the most special day of your life? A "unique" day – one of a kind? Was it a day you received the best present ever? Or won some award? Or went on the holiday of a lifetime? Well, in this life there are days that seem good to us, and days that seem bad. But there is Day coming that is better than all the rest: the Day the Lord Jesus returns. That Day will make all the rest seem ordinary by comparison. We should look forward to that day most of all! **Questions:** How does the Lord's return end all opposition against God's people? What blessings does the Lord bring with Him? Mention some of the words Zechariah uses to describe that Day.

Introduction:

First Point: The Day of Deliverance

- 1) The Day of Plundering: Before the Great Day described by Zechariah in this summary-chapter, there is a day of plundering. All the nations invade and enter Jerusalem and wreak havoc. This is the "Armageddon" theme that we find in Ezk. 38, Joel 3:1-3, Zech. 12, Rev. 16:13f and 20:7-9. We may understand this as a symbolic way of saying that Christ will defeat all the world's opposition and divide the spoils of the whole world with His Church in His victory.
- 2) The Day the Lord Fights: For this is the day the Lord fights for His people, as He did in ancient battles in the OT. But Christ battles against Satan, sin and death for His people. In His victory, He also guarantees the ultimate defeat of all human enemies of the Church.
- 3) The Day the People Escape: The Lord thus provides a way of escape for His people – from all hostility. He is described as a Giant standing astride the Mt. of Olives near Jerusalem, splitting the mount to provide a ravine through which His people can escape the besieged city – as they did during the earthquake in Uzziah's day (Amos 1:1). Christ is our Escape and Shelter from an even greater disaster!
- 4) The Day the Spoils Are Divided: The point is that throughout all the opposition of the Age, as well as at the End, Christ completely delivers; and He also replaces all the losses of His people with all the "spoils" of the earth. See Is. 60. It is on this basis that we can count all earthly "gains" as "loss" (Phlp. 3:7-11).

Second Point: The Day of Glory

- 1) The Day of Glory: To flesh out the blessedness of the "spoils" we have in Christ, Zechariah goes on in vss. 5b-11 to describe the greatness of the "Unique Day" of the Lord. It is a Day of glory, when Christ comes back with His heavenly host (v. 5b). We have a share in His glory!
- 2) The Day of Light: It is also a Day of Light. All the heavenly light-sources dwindle, since God is now the all-sufficient Source of Light. See Rev. 21:23, 22:5 and Is. 60:19-20. The NT, however, adds that Christ is also the Lamp, the Light of the world (Jn. 8:10).
- 3) The Day of Life: This Day will be a day of abundant life, symbolized by living water springing from Jerusalem. This water/life flows out everywhere, in all seasons. In other words, God is the Source of Life, which He brings via His Church. See Ps. 46:4, Jer. 2:13, Ezk. 47:1-2. But once again, the NT makes it clear that Jesus, as God, brings this life to the world (Rev. 1-2, Jn. 4:13-14, 7:37-38).
- 4) The Day of Security: The Unique Day is a day of security for the Church. Jerusalem is elevated, and the rest of the land is levelled. This implies Jerusalem's glory and safety. This, too, is taken up in Rev. 21:10-11, where the New Jerusalem descends from above. It will be so safe, there will no longer be any curse in it cf., Rev. 22:3. This is due to Christ's saving work.
- 5) The Day of the King: All these aspects of this great Day are fulfilled in Christ. This Day is therefore the Day when "The Lord will be King over all the earth" (v. 9). See Ps. 2. Rev. 11:5 and Phlp. 2:9-11 tell us that Christ is that King. On the Last Day, His Name will be seen to be the only Name – fulfilling Dt. 6:4

Conclusion: