

Big Changes at the Second Coming

Zechariah

Sermon 16

Zechariah 14:1 – 11

Nutshell: The **Second Coming** is the application of the Cross. What Christ paid for, He will collect. He will bring all things to their conclusion. Our rescue is integral to that. Bring Israel back to Himself is also integral to it. At His coming, we will finally be able to worship and serve the Lord as we ought.

Review: God told them to turn, 1:3. They turned, 1:6b. Now they could hear the coming New Covenant. Jesus (the “Man”) **reconnoitered** the world, 1:8-11, asking the Father for pity on Jerusalem, 1:12. God was both *jealous* for His people and *angry* towards their oppressors, 1:14-15. *A continued theme.*

God’s **Undo 1**: the four builders (ch 1)
God’s **Redo 1**: Jesus measuring for an expanded Jerusalem (ch 2)
God’s **Prerequisite Redo**: cleansing the presently unclean priesthood (ch 3). Tied to it was the **Prerequisite Redo** of the Spirit’s empowerment, 4:6.
God’s **Undo 2**: ridding His land of liars (ch 5)
The **reconnoitering** was completed, 6:1-8. The real answer would be Jesus Himself, 6:12-13.
Redo How-to: Avoiding what led their fathers into Babylon (ch 7-8)
God’s **Undo 3**: Lands on Israel’s borders judged. Christ’s offered peace terms are prophesied (ch 9)
God’s **Redo 2**: Judah and Israel are to be reunited and victorious against oppressors (ch 10)
God’s **Undo 4**: Like **Undo 2**, exposing His people’s betrayal (ch 11). The queries in ch 7-8 answered.
God’s **Redo 3**: Judah and Jerusalem will be united in repentance by the pouring of the Spirit (ch 12)
God’s **Redo 4**: All God’s people washed, 13:1.
God’s **Undo 4**: Idols and false prophets therefore evicted, 13:2-6.
God’s **Undo 5** and **Redo 5**: The Cross offends 2/3. 1/3 enter the trials of the Cross.

Kid-speak: Because of sin, God must **undo** a lot of things. But does He *leave* them undone? No, He starts over and does them right.

Vision Outline: Chaps. 1 – 6. 8 Visions.

A chiastic outline: Link Vision 1 & 8, 2 & 7, 3 & 6, 4 & 5. Visions 4-5 are the **focal point**.

Vision 1, 1:7-17. Vis 2, 1:18-21. Vis 3, 2:1-13. Vis 4, 3:1-10. Vis 5, 4:1-14. Vis 6, 5:1-4. Vis 7, 5:5-11. Vis 8, 6:1-8.

Vision 1: The Son’s HORSEMEN: the pagans **rest** smugly. God: I’ll be with Israel and judge/convert the pagans.

Vision 2: God sends 4 builders to **BRING DOWN** the 4 **PAGAN** horns that scatter God’s people.

Vision 3: The Son **goes out** to **measure** Jerusalem for her coming expansion. Pagans to be judged.

Vision 4: Priest Joshua clothed: justification. Satan rebuked. Zechariah appointed; Messiah promised.

Vision 5: Olive-fed Menorah: sanctification. Spirit-filled Zerubbabel to overcome pagan ‘mountains’.

Vision 6: A flying scroll **goes out** as a ‘**measure**’ of the ungodly in Israel.

Vision 7: **COUNTERFEIT BRIDE** measured (ephah), **THROWN DOWN**, sealed over, bridesmaid-flown to native Shinar.

Vision 8: The Son’s HORSEMEN go forth to give God’s Spirit **rest** (judge or convert (2:11) the pagans).

Note God’s equal judging activity between the pagans and His people: Vis 2 & 7, Vis 3 & 6. 1 Peter 1:17.

Kid-speak: Does God only judge the people who hate Him? No, He judges His own people too, to get rid of our sin.

Review (cont.):

Chap 6:9-15, Make crowns for the High Priest, since Messiah (Shoot) will be the original Priest-King.

Chap 7, Q & A: “Has your fasting been for Me? Or, as your fathers, *have you ignored justice & mercy?*”

Chap 8, “The Big Shift: I’ll dwell with you → pleasantness. Many will join you. *But are you neighborly?*”

Chap 9, “I’ll send conquering Alexander as a type of the humble Messiah, His victory in the Cross.”

Chap 9 is a large version of the “Then you’ll know” prophecies of 2:9, 4:9, and 6:15.

Chap 10, As surely as Alexander will come, God will reunite Judah and Ephraim vs. their foes.

Chap 11, Zechariah plays a good shepherd, and the people insult him (30 silver shekels).

Zechariah breaks his staves signifying their unity. Zechariah plays the bad shepherd they deserve.

Chap 12, God will judge the nations He brings against Jerusalem. Judah, Jerusalem, and David’s

house will finally have one heart. “They’ll look on Me whom they pierced” and mourn broadly.

Chap 13, Christ’s cleansing fountain will *radically* rid (x2) idolatry and false teachers. God’s sword against His own Shepherd: “Strike the Shepherd,” quoted by Jesus. Broad judgment will result on most, bringing 1/3 back to God through trial.

Kid-speak: Last time, we heard God saying, “Strike the Shepherd.” Who was the Shepherd? Jesus. Why did God strike Him? He was striking *Him* for *our* sins.

- I. Zech 14 themes in the whole book, in the OT, in the New Covenant, & in the Final Culmination
 - A. Zech 14 carries a Purifier/Rescuer theme, with *God* as the protagonist, *His people* as God’s protectorate, and *His/their enemies* as the antagonists.
 - B. The theme of God using a final battle to first **purify** His people continues from 13:7-9
 1. Before that, it was just conquering the enemy and rescuing His people, 1:15, 18-21 (the 4 horns), 2:8-9, etc.
 - ◆ 2. But now, God purifies His people by *first letting their enemies triumph*.
 - a. Which continues a theme throughout their history, 1:2 (enemies not specifically mentioned).
 - b. 7:13-14, etc.
 - C. God’s personal, victorious intervention (2nd Coming), 14:4, hastens the completion of *the continuing OT theme* of God’s Man “**CRUSHING THE SERPENT’S HEAD.**”
 1. Having earned this victory during His First Coming at the Cross/Resurrection.
 2. Zech 14 seems to describe the events in Rev 19 and 2 Thess 2: Christ’s defeat of Antichrist.
 3. Antichrist is the Satan-backed man, Rev 13:2. Christ defeating Antichrist, Rev 19, is the final preview before His destruction of Satan, Rev 20:10.

Kid-speak: Jesus came to make peace. Is He going to make any more wars? Yes! He’s still going to fight and destroy the Devil!

D. Zechariah is the clearest OT depiction of the New Covenant *enacted*.

1. Just as Revelation is the clearest depiction of the New Covenant *completed*.
- ☞ 2. Both contain strange imagery because of the ‘intrusion’ of the NC into an opposing reality
 - a. Earth and mankind remain Enemy territory, 2 Cor 4:4, 1 Jn 5:19.
 - b. All we can presently use to convey heavenly realities are earthly elements, Col 2:8
- E. Zechariah, like Revelation, contains plain depictions of God’s final conquest of earth and man.
 1. Including geographic features, such as Christ touching down on the Mount of Olives.
 2. And battle descriptions, such as 14:1-3, 12-13; 12:2-4; 10:5.

Kid-speak: Will the earth always look like it does today? No, when Jesus comes back, He’ll make some pretty big changes!

II. The Cross and the Second Coming in Zechariah 12-14

- A. The central theme in Zech 12 and 13 is the Cross.
 1. “They will look on Me whom they pierced,” 12:10.
 2. “Strike the Shepherd. Yes, the sheep must be scattered,” 13:7.
 3. The result of the Cross in 13:8-9 was 2/3 being cut off and 1/3 being refined.
- B. Now in Zech 14, the theme of refining based on the Cross continues.
 1. The 1/3 left is further cut in half, 14:2; hence, 1/6 left.
 2. This extreme testing corresponds to the reign of the Antichrist, 1 Jn 2:18, the Man of Sin, 2 Thess 2, or the Beast, Rev 13.
 3. Antichrist will make and break a covenant with the Jews, Dan 9:27 w 2 Thess 2:4.
 4. To end Antichrist’s reign, Christ returns, Zech 14:4, “And in that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... and the Mountain will be split.”
 - a. The starting place for His destruction of Antichrist, 2 Thess 2:8.
 - b. Splitting the Mount of Olives and providing an escape route for the Jews who have “looked on Me whom they pierced and mourned.”
- C. Christ returning physically to earth is clearly foretold, Acts 1:11.
 1. Its significance cannot be overstated.
 2. His earthly works are not completed by simply ushering us away from earth into Heaven.
 - a. (There is no Rapture, per the popular conception.
 - b. Antichrist must come before Christ’s return, 2 Thess 2:3
 3. There are accounts to settle on earth. *Earth as it is* must come to a proper recompense.
 4. Christ will be king here, Rev 20, *before* the New Heavens and New Earth of Rev 21.

Kid-speak: When Jesus comes back, what will He be? King!

- D. Christ’s Second Coming, huge in significance, will result in similarly huge geographical changes
 1. Jerusalem becoming a river source.
 - a. Other big players in Scriptures had their continual water sources (the Nile, the Euphrates);
 - b. Now Jerusalem will have her own, 14:8.

2. The topography around Jerusalem will change.
 - a. Jerusalem is already on a significant hill.
 - b. She will rise yet further, 14:10.
- E. Ultimately, Christ's return = His people getting to be with Him
 1. We should therefore long for it, 2 Tim 4:8
 2. And become God-fearers because of the heavens-marring ending of our present cosmos (14:6), 2 Pet 3:10-11.

Kid-speak: What's one reason Jesus will come back? To rescue us. Do we need rescuing? Yes.

III. Literal vs. Figurative Interpretation

- A. No interpreter is all literal or all figurative. But it is no easy matter discerning some passages.
- B. Most passages that are ultimately literal and future, such as Zech 14, yet have legitimate present, figurative fulfillments.
 1. Nearly the whole book of Revelation is written that way.
 - a. Revelation tells how God will consummate history through Christ,
 - b. but we are also seeing the *principles* by which He *operates* in every generation until then.
 2. But to take Zech 14 mainly figuratively introduces many confusing elements.
 - a. If we make Jerusalem a figure for Christians, the descriptions become muddled.
 - b. Besides, we are to anticipate God dealing with the Jews again, Rom 11:25.
 3. To apply Zech mainly to A.D. 70 (the destruction of Jerusalem) also requires a great deal of generalization and skipping of details.
 - a. Is Christ splitting the Mount of Olives simply a figure for big changes in the religious cosmic order?
 - b. The earthquake in Uzziah's day is mentioned. It was literal, Amos 1:1.
 - c. *Parallels* to A.D. 70 are certainly present, but why would we ignore plain passages such as Acts 1:11 concerning Christ's visible, literal, bodily return?

Kid-speak: When will the book of Revelation mainly happen? *Later*. But does it also tell us what's going on right *now*? Yes.

IV. God's Name, 14:9

- A. In between the two geographical changes of a new fountainhead and a new elevation, God's name is said to be "one," or "unified," or "singular," or "unique," just as He Himself is unique.
- B. This is important to our understanding and application of God's name.
 1. Perhaps especially in following Christ's prayer instruction to request the setting apart of God's name.
 2. What is God's Name?
- C. God's oneness is famously stated in Deut 6:4.
 1. There is no similar statement about God's name until here.

2. We know that His name alone is exalted, Ps 83:18; 148:13, but the “unity” of God’s name is peculiarly connected to this era of change in Zech 14.

D. What can we conclude from this?

1. Presently, God’s name resides chiefly in His **Word**, Ps 138:4.
2. Even the living Word, Christ, deferred to the written Word (meaning His own words), Lk 22:37.
3. God’s “Name” = however he defines/ reveals Himself.
 - a. Creation reveals God, Rom 1:20.
 - b. God’s works reveal His Name, Ps 75:1.

Kid-speak: What is God’s Name? It’s any way He lets us know about Himself. *What’s* the main way He tells us about Himself? The Bible. *Who* is the main way He tells us about Himself? Jesus.

- * 4. But presently, with all the clarity we have in Scriptures, Christ, and the Spirit, we are still said to see things “in a mirror dimly,” 1 Cor 13:12
 - a. To have God’s name “come together” (“unify”) for us means our minds will finally be able to bring into focus all the elements that have been a bit too broad for us to really master right now.
 - b. We can master it (imagine having Paul’s breadth and depth of Scriptural knowledge) and have clear, sufficient guidance, but there are elements that tend to elude us.
 - c. Some of them have very specifically to do with the Second Coming.
 - d. At the Second Coming, imagine the number of elements connected to the Second Coming (and which ones really are not?) that will finally settle into our thinking.
5. God’s Name is still unified until that point, but the declaration of Zech 14:9 means that it will finally be perceived with near-full-clarity.
 - a. *Indeed, we ourselves are undisclosed until Christ’s revelation!!* Col 3:4; 1 Jn 3:2
 - b. We will only know who we ourselves are WHEN He comes!

Kid-speak: Will we be different when Jesus comes? Yes, we’ll finally be who we really are!

V. Structure of Zech 14:1-11

- A. The final battle of this Age, v 1-3.
 1. His people going through the fire.
 2. Then God avenging Himself on the wicked.
- B. Christ’s promised return and its cosmic impact, v 4
 1. Physical
 - a. The creation of a valley used for escape, v 5
 - b. Celestial changes to accompany the terrestrial ones, v 6
 - c. Changes in our lighting, v 7
 - d. Jerusalem a new fountainhead for two rivers, v 8

2. Spiritual: the one Yahweh, King, will be unified of Name, v 9
 3. Physical
 - a. Jerusalem will rise, v 10
 - b. The surrounding land will become like the Arabah, or southern, low-lying desert.
- C. God's people will return to a cleansed Jerusalem that will need no more purging, v 11

Kid-speak: Will God have to get rid of any more sin once we're in Heaven? Nope, it'll all be gone.

VI. Observations and Applications

- A. God's purging is severe, v 1-2. Why? Our sin must be deep and severe.
- B. Even with huge change, God's doings have continuity, v 3, "like the day..."
- C. Earth and Heaven are *connected* ↓. Terrestrial changes are accompanied by celestial, v 4-6.
 1. Which is why the *disconnect* of sin on earth should be so disconcerting.
 2. And should put longing in our asking for God's will to be done here like it's done in Heaven.
- D. The point of the celestial changes is how *our* light is affected. We are not a mere dot in space.
- E. How huge for a city to supply its own water!
 1. Hence, how huge for the supply of the Spirit-fountain within us, Jn 7:38-39.
 2. Give Him His tools! Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs primarily, Eph 5:19; Col 3:16
- F. Man being in God's image was always supposed to mean elevation, 14:10.
 1. Eden was elevated and the earth's fountainhead: 4 rivers, Gen 2:10-14.
 2. Jerusalem will be the new Eden.
- G. Later, no more *cherem*. Until then, we are under orders to commit our "earthly members" to *cherem*, Col 3:5.

Kid-speak: When we say, "God, we want Your will to be done here on earth the way Your will is done in Heaven, who is it doing God's will in Heaven? The angels. We want to obey God the way the angels do.

Wrap-up: After the Red Sea, the Song of Moses said that "Yahweh is a Man of War," Exod 15:3. This was always part of His character- to fight valiantly for justice when needed.

As fallen people, we've lost nearly all perspective of true justice. We always factor in man (ourselves in particular) too prominently. Doing right by us is not true justice, especially since each of us is guilty of so *many injustices*.

We must thank God that He waged war against our injustices on the Cross!

We must thank Him that the Cross obligated Him to purge sin completely out of us.

We must therefore thank God for trials.

Trials are where we should be making our most vital connection to the Cross.