

Message #18

Zechariah 14:7-15

Down in Palm Beach, Florida, is an impressive spring training facility for the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals. It is called the FITTEAM Ballpark of Palm Beaches. It is a brand new facility that opened in February 2017.

Now the history of this place is fascinating. There was 160 acres of semi-swampy land that was being used for landfill and the city voted to turn that into one of the most beautiful facilities you will ever see. The project took 16 months. It took 16 months to turn 160 acres of landfill into a beautiful place for baseball.

The old city of Jerusalem covers about 220 acres. You could almost say it is somewhat of a land fill because the city has been destroyed so many times that many ruins are buried underground. If you look at pictures of old Jerusalem today, there is no glamour or glory to it. **But that is all going to change in one day.** It will not take 16 months to turn things around; it will take one day and that day will be the day when Jesus Christ returns.

Zechariah saw that day and in this final chapter of his prophetic book he graphically describes it. What he says is this:

JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN ON ONE VERY SPECIAL UNIQUE DAY AND WHEN HE DOES RETURN, MANY GLORIOUS BLESSINGS WILL BE EXPERIENCED BY ISRAEL ALL OVER HER PROMISED LAND.

Most people don't realize how important Israel is to God. But Charles Feinberg said, "But where Israel is concerned, God is vitally interested" (*The Minor Prophets*, p. 341).

We have mentioned this many times—God blesses those who bless Israel and He curses those who curse Israel. We are convinced that this is one reason the United States has been blessed in so many ways—we have been an ally and friend to Israel. I think this is one reason why God has blessed our church; we pray for Israel and we defend her and esteem her.

One critical, prophetic moment will be when Jesus Christ literally returns to Jerusalem and completely takes over the Land and the world. You may not like that or believe it, but that is what Zechariah says will happen.

Now there are eight observations we want to make about this:

OBSERVATION #1 – The LORD will return on a very unique day. 14:7a

Now this moment was described in **verse 4**. The feet that were pierced for the salvation of sinners will literally return to Jerusalem and stand on the Mount of Olives. This will be a visible return of Jesus Christ and when this happens, it will not be a normal day. It will be a very unique day.

Now the words “unique day” or literally in Hebrew “day unique” (yom-ehad) uses the numerical “one” (ehad) to stress that this will be one very specific, unusual day. This day, when Jesus Christ returns, will be unlike any other day in world history.

There will not be another moment in history like it. It will be an amazing day. Notice that this day is known only to the LORD. Even though the time of Jacob’s trouble lasts 3 ½ years and there are specific signs that lead to His coming, He is the only one who knows the exact moment of this moment.

OBSERVATION #2 – The day will be unusual in its light. **14:7b**

The day Jesus Christ returns will be a day that features drastic changes in nature, specifically drastic changes in regard to light. The luminaries of heaven will testify of the return of Jesus Christ (**Zech. 14:6**).

There will obviously be an “absence of darkness” on this day, but there will be no day or night. Light will be radiating from the Lord Himself, worldwide.

The prophet Isaiah really described this in Isaiah 60:19-20. He said that you will not have the sun for light by day or the moon at night, “But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light.” Days of darkness and sorrow will all be over when Jesus Christ returns.

There is a great application to make from this and that is no matter how dark your life has been or how sad you are, if you turn your life over to Jesus Christ, His light will shine on you and in you. Jesus Christ can light up your life. He can turn sorrow into joy and darkness into light. He will physically do that for Israel when He returns.

OBSERVATION #3 – The day will feature abundant and living water flowing in Israel. **14:8**

When you look at Jerusalem today you cannot help but see that it is a “parched land.” What a day of blessing it will be when fresh living waters flow out of Jerusalem. We know from our study of Ezekiel that this living water will flow from the Temple (Ezekiel 47:1-12). This will be a life-giving river that will feature various depth levels. It will start as a small stream of water trickling out of the south side of the Temple. It will rise in depth level about every 600 yards as it flows out of Jerusalem. It will go from ankle depth, to knee depth, to thigh depth to swimming depth (Ez. 47:3-5).

This life-giving water will flow east to the Dead Sea and west to the Mediterranean Sea. When the water flows to the Dead Sea, the Dead Sea will become fresh water (Ez. 47:8). What this says is that Israel will have every bit of the Promised Land and that land will be blessed of God.

Now two specific seasons are mentioned, “summer” and “winter.” Those are the extreme months and the purpose seems to be to show that even during the extreme months flowing water will continue and the blessings of God will flourish.

Now this will be a literal river that will literally flow when Jesus Christ returns.

But we want to make two applications about this:

- 1) The source of all refreshing blessings is always God and always Jesus Christ.
- 2) There is a life-giving fountain drawn from Immanuel's veins that can give eternal life.

Jesus said whoever by faith believes in Him drinks from the water of life and will never thirst again (John 4:13-14).

OBSERVATION #4 – The LORD will be king over all the earth. **14:9**

There are churches that regularly repeat what is called the Lord's prayer. Part of the words say, "Thy Kingdom come." Well this will be the moment when that prayer is answered. Jesus Christ will literally and physically return and set up His kingdom and He will rule over the entire world.

This has been Israel's hope for years. In fact, three Psalms specifically stress the fact that one day the LORD will reign (Ps. 93, 97, 99). It is predicted that the King will come and reign as King of Israel and He will reign over the entire world. That point is stressed here.

His reign will be over "all the earth." We have never experienced anything like this. In fact, this has never happened anywhere in history. What a moment when you have the Perfect God-King ruling over the entire world.

Notice the text says in that day "the LORD Will be the only one and His name the only one." There will be no mention of any other political leader. There will be no mention of a President, or a Chancellor or a Prime Minister. There will be one mention of one King for the entire world and that King will be Jesus Christ.

When this happens everyone in the world will acknowledge that He is the only true King and only true God. There is only One true God. That is all there has ever been, but this will be the point in time when the entire world will admit and believe it and worship Him.

Isaiah 45:5 says, "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God." There are not multiple deities or gods, there is only One. It is the God of the Bible and there will come a day when everyone in the world will acknowledge that. That will be the day Christ reigns.

OBSERVATION #5 – There will be a tremendous change to Israel's land. **14:10**

When Jesus Christ returns there will be many topographical and geographical changes to the Land of Israel. All of Palestine will be transformed into Israel's land flowing with blessings.

The mountains that surround Israel offer the people of Israel protection. Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains. George Klein writes: "Geographically, Jerusalem sits nestled beneath the gaze of mountains on every side. The mountains offered the city limited defensive advantages, particularly in her early days" (*Zechariah*, p. 413).

When Jesus Christ returns, there will be no more need of the mountains. What God will do is remove them and turn them into a beautiful plain flowing with His wonderful blessings. He will make changes in “all the land.” What is specifically brought out here is that He will make the Promised Land one massive glorious flat plain filled with His blessings.

Now some have said this is just metaphorical language and does not really mean this really will happen in the land. We'll explain the last part of **verse 10**. Specific places are named that would indicate these promises are very literal and very real.

Geba was located about six miles north-east of Jerusalem. Rimmon was located about 30-35 miles southwest of Jerusalem. Benjamin's Gate opened to territory to the north of Jerusalem. The first Gate would probably be the first north gate into and out of the city and the corner Gate was on the north western side of the wall of Jerusalem. No one knows for certain where the “Tower of Hananel” was located, but it is said to have been near the NE Corner of the wall. The King's wine presses were located southeast of the city of Jerusalem near the King's garden and pool.

Now when you read this, you must conclude Zechariah seems to think that Jesus Christ will literally and specifically come back to Jerusalem and transform this Palestinian land into beautiful blessed land.

Whether it is in the city or out of the city, everything in the land will be completely blessed by Him.

OBSERVATION #6 – People will live in Jerusalem in total security. **14:11**

Just look at what is predicted here. Jerusalem is a city where things are always tense. Those who live in Jerusalem always are on the lookout for some attack. When Jesus Christ returns, everything changes for Jerusalem, Israel and the Promised Land. It will all be secure.

Jerusalem has never been a really big city and it certainly has never been a really secure city. What is described here is that one day the people will live in Jerusalem in total security and peace and never again will God curse it and send some judgment against it.

This idea of Israel living securely in her land is a dream for which Israel has longed. Many passages in the O.T. predict a time when Jerusalem and Israel will be totally secure. Jerusalem will be a city without walls (Zech. 2:4) and a city where boys and girls play in the streets without any fear (Zech. 8:5-6).

This will all come true when Christ returns.

OBSERVATION #7 – The LORD will ferociously judge all enemies of Israel. **14:12-13**

Zechariah says there will be three ways God will cause Israel's enemies to be defeated:

Way of Defeat #1 - God will send a plague that will rot the flesh off of the enemies. **14:12**

We may remember that back in the days of the Assyrians, Sennacherib's army surrounded Jerusalem with the goal of attacking it the next day. During the night the angel of the LORD went and killed 185,000 soldiers and when the people got up the next day, all that was left was dead bodies (II Kings 19:35).

What is describe here is a judgment of nations in which the LORD literally causes those who have gone against Jerusalem to suffer a gruesome flesh-eating disease that will be so severe that it will cause panic to exist among all the nations.

People will be standing and the flesh will rot right off their bodies and people will grab each other's hands trying to support each other, but it will be too late.

Way of Defeat #2 - God will send confusion so that enemies will kill each other. **14:13**

We may also remember that during the days of Gideon, in the book of Judges,, that God turned the minds and hearts of the Midianites and Amalekites against one another and they started killing each other (Judges 7:22).

Way of Defeat #3 - God will use Judah to fight and defeat many enemies. **14:14**

Little Judah will become a powerhouse for God. God will turn Judah into a force that dominates and wins.

What we see here is that when Jesus Christ returns, He will smite the nations with a rod of iron and with His sword. These are very scary verses against those who have hated Israel and have opposed Jerusalem.

OBSERVATION #8 – Israel will have all the spoils and plunder of all the nations. **14:14-15**

When the LORD does this and pours out this judgment plague on the nations, Israel will get the wealth of all surrounding nations including their gold, silver, garments, horses, mules, camels, donkeys and cattle.

When the exiles of Israel first went back to Jerusalem from Babylon, they took with them 736 horses, 245 mules, 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys (Ezra 2:66-67). These animals were important to Israel.

God says one day you will inherit all of the animals and the money from all the surrounding nations. You will never regret believing in Jesus Christ. In the end, you will experience the great blessings of God.