

Zechariah 14:1-21

Introduction

One of the main words that portrays our salvation is the term “peace.” Peace is the end of strife and danger and the coming of true security and blessing. In Zechariah’s day, the prospect of another conquest still seemed very real and peace seemed tantalizingly, elusive. It is against this backdrop that the final chapter of Zechariah’s prophecy both confirms the people’s fears and affirms their great hope.

Summary

In Zechariah 14:1-21, the prophet speaks of a great battle when all the nations will gather against Jerusalem, plundering it with great violence, following which the Lord to establish his reign of peace.

1. Fulfilled Prophecy

Zechariah 14 completes the historical progression of the final oracles that began in chapter 9. They start with the centuries to come shortly after the restoration of Jerusalem, including the conquests of Alexander and the Maccabean wars of the Jews. **These prophecies then focus on the coming of the true king.**

The next great event in redemptive history is his second coming to vindicate his beleaguered people, judge the earth, and bring his eternal reign of blessing and peace. That is what chapter 14 brings to our view.

2. Ransacked City vv. 1-2

God brings about true devotion by purifying his people in severe hardship and removing the worldliness from our hearts. God offers spiritual blessings that sometimes come through great worldly trials. (**Acts 14:22**).

Many Christians underestimate the cost of following Christ in this world. Are we willing to endure intense affliction as Christians?

3. Coming Lord vv. 3-5

God does not allow his people to perish but comes to save his city (**Zech. 14:3**).

The prophet points to previous times when God had appeared in history to defend his people; Exodus; Jericho; Midian; Assyrians.

Christians are beset by dangers but those who hold fast to the Lord find a way of deliverance they could not have imagined, as the Lord suddenly comes to their aid.

4. Eternal Kingdom vv. 6-11

God's deliverance of His people leads to a great description of the eternal kingdom that the Lord will bring at the end of history.

There will be a cataclysmic change in the order of nature (**Zech 14:6–11**).

Zechariah describes a unique day; a day like no other. It is a new day, an entry into the eternal realm where day and night, with their respective lights, are gone (**Rev 21:23**).

This message is not just about a distant future.
 It tells us that where Jesus Christ comes to reign, there is peace.
 This is true now, just as it will be throughout the earth on that great day to come.

5. Holy to the Lord vv 12-21

Zechariah proceeds to describe God's terrible judgment (**Zech 14:12-15**).
 No one who opposes God, no one who in the end has rejected his authority and spurned his gospel, will escape final judgment.
 This is intended to comfort the people of God, now afflicted in the world, that God will bring all her oppressors to a terrible account. We may safely, then, leave all vengeance to him, thankful for our own salvation and busy in the work of the gospel.
Vv 16-19 show the sovereignty of Christ's reign as king as he receives universal homage.

The achievement of God's eternal purpose in history is crowned not only with the eternal reign of Christ as Lord, but also in the presentation of a perfect and holy bride for God's Son (**Eph. 1:4; 5:27**). The final verses of the prophet present the complete holiness of God's city in the new creation (**Zech 14:20-21**).
 Heaven will be completely holy. This is what the reign of Christ achieves: holiness issuing forth in praise to God and blessings for his people.

This is the greatest encouragement to all of God's people, but also our highest challenge. What better news could there be than a holy future in perfect glory but this is also our highest calling and duty in this life (**1 Thess. 4:3; 1 John 3:3-4**).

Holiness is a necessity in the Christian life. Heb 12:14. Our holiness is God's work in and for us, BUT in contrast to justification, which we receive empty-handed by faith alone, sanctification is a work to which God calls us as his fellow-worker.
Phil. 2:12-13 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure".
 What will you like about heaven if you do not love holiness now?

The greatest possible incentive to holiness is what these final verses set before our eyes of faith: the glory of God in the holiness of his people by the saving reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are a true believer you cannot gaze upon this scene without longing for and praying more of that holiness now that someday will be perfectly yours.
 The God who grants you entry into this city by faith in Christ alone will fit you to live there with him forever. He will bring you to perfect holiness in manifest glory.
 To him be glory, both now and forever.