

From Suffering to Worship: The Shepherd and His City (13:7-14:21) — Zechariah’s Day of the LORD —

Zechariah 14 is the climax of the entire book and amplifies the final verses the previous chapter (13:7-9). Here, the shepherd was rejected and the sheep have been scattered. The outcome is that God will bring all the nations to battle against Jerusalem and leave it no other option for salvation, apart from His messianic deliverer. While the scene opens with Jerusalem defeated and pillaged, its citizens abused, and half its inhabitants exiled, God promises that “the rest [lit. ‘remnant’] of the people will not be cut off from the city” and that He will save them! The remainder of the chapter focuses on this rescue of the remnant and the reign of Israel’s Redeemer and King.

Zechariah 14 awaits future fulfillment: “the apocalyptic language, coupled with the universal scope of the prophecies in chap. 14, render any attempt to find a past historical fulfillment to the chapter impossible. Numerous statements in chap. 14 have no equivalent in history. For instance, the following prophecies from chap. 14 demand an eschatological fulfillment: God will “gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it” (v. 2); “it will be a unique day . . . known to the LORD” (v. 7); “the LORD will be king over the whole earth” (v. 9); “never again will it [Jerusalem] be destroyed” (v. 11); and “the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty” (v. 16).”

The sevenfold reverberation of the eschatological formula “on that day” (*bayyôm—hahû*) (vv. 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 20, 21) also makes the futuristic outlook of chap. 14 certain. The messianic implications of Zech 9–11 focus on events surrounding Christ’s first advent. Zechariah 9:9 epitomizes this emphasis: “See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey.” Chapters 12–14 encompass Christ’s second advent when he establishes the eternal kingdom of God. The theological climax of the Messiah’s arrival appears in 14:9: “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.”—George Klein, *Zechariah*, NAC, 398.

- I. **The Recapture of Jerusalem, the City of God (14:1–5)**
 - A. The abuse against Jerusalem and her inhabitants—her hopeless situation (1-2)
 - B. The arrival of Jerusalem’s savior—the divine warrior “the LORD will go forth and fight . . .” (3-5)
- II. **The Renewal of Jerusalem, on “the day of the LORD” (14:6–11)**
 - A. Zechariah’s prophecies of the new heavens and new earth:
 1. No memory of the names of the idols (13:2a)
 2. No false prophets (13:2b)
 3. No unclean spirits (13:2c)
 4. No light or luminaries (14:6)
 5. No more curse (14:11)
 6. No rain on those who do not go up to worship in Jerusalem (14:17-18)
 7. No Canaanite in the house of the LORD [the ungodly] (14:21)
 - B. John’s prophecies of the new heavens and new earth in the Book of Revelation:
 1. No tears (21:4)
 2. No death (21:4)
 3. No mourning (21:4)
 4. No crying (21:4)
 5. No pain (21:4)
 6. No temple (21:22)
 7. No need of sun/moon (21:23-24)
 8. No night (21:25)
 9. No closed gates (21:23-24)
 10. No unclean thing (21:27)
 11. No abominations (21:27)
 12. No lying (21:27)
- III. **The Retribution against Disobedient Nations (14:12–15)**

“Three mighty events recorded in Zechariah 14:1-15 will distinguish the second coming of our Lord from all other events this earth has ever seen. At the heart of this pericope stands verse 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.”*” The three events that lead up to that magnificent moment are:

 - A. Our nations will fight Jerusalem for the last time (14:1-3)
 - B. Our Messiah will appear a second time (14:4-7)
 - C. Our Messiah’s kingdom will be established over all (14:8-15)” —Walter Kaiser, *Mastering the Old Testament*, 418
- IV. **The Requirement of Worship in Jerusalem for All Peoples (14:16–21)**
 - A. All the nations will participate (Zech 14:16-17; Hag 2:7-8)
 - B. Gentile nations will minister to Jerusalem (see Isa 60:10-14)

Zechariah 14:1-21

14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. 2

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. 3

Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! 6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. 7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. 8 And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one. 10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. 11 And people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. 13 And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. 14 And Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. 15 So also like this plague, will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey, and all the cattle that will be in those camps.

16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. 18 And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 19 This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 20 In that day there will be *inscribed* on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD." And the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the bowls before the altar. 21 And every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.