



Sermon Series: Unquenchable Hope Part 15

Sermon Title: The Best Days

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, August 9, 2020

Zechariah 14

Zechariah 14 begins with a really bad day for God's people.

Big idea: A really bad day may be doorway to the best.

This is especially true in light of several events that take place in association with the "Day of the LORD."

1st Event: Israel's Apparent Defeat

Zechariah 14:1-2

It begins in Zechariah 14:1-2 with the Battle of Armageddon. The forces of anti-Christ gather to destroy Israel. Massive forces sweep south from northern Israel to capture Jerusalem. **Revelation 16:16, Zechariah 14:1-2** Jerusalem is captured. But God sovereignly uses the debacle to reach everyone who's heart is open. **Zechariah 13:9**

The enemy occupation is cut short by a sudden divine intervention.

2nd Event: YAHWEH's Decisive Deliverance

Zechariah 14:3-5

As the enemy sacks Jerusalem, Jesus, the Prince of Peace goes to war. Jesus will descend to the Mt of Olives, from which he ascended 40 days after his resurrection [Acts 1:11]. His feet will split the Mt of Olives in two, with a valley in between, which will provide a way of escape [Zechariah 14:5] for the people whose hearts have opened. They will look up and see Jesus coming with Christ-followers who had been taken away to glory. Together with Jesus they descend to the Mount of Olives and rout the enemy. **Zechariah 14:4**

3rd Event: Shocking Devastation of the enemy

Zechariah 14:12-15

God will use 3 weapons:

- a) A plague: Vs 12 refers to "rotting body parts"... not pleasant. Like zombies from AMC TV series, "Walking Dead."
- b) A great panic, which causes the enemy to turn on one another.

Vs. 13 “they will attack one another.”

- c) Superhuman strength that Jesus will give to the surviving Jewish remnant.

4th Event: Millennial Dominion of Messiah

Zechariah 14:6–8

The constellations will dim in the overwhelming glory that will shine. The climates of the earth will be transformed. It will be like Eden, all over again. Every false religion and satanic counterfeit will end. **Zechariah 14:9**

As surrounding territory sinks, Jerusalem itself will elevate, like a solitaire diamond atop its setting. **Zechariah 14:10–11**

Survivors who enter the Millennial Kingdom with physical mortal bodies. Jerusalem will be God’s capital on earth, and every yr, representatives from nations will go there to worship Jesus in person. **Zechariah 14:16** Keep in mind, this is the last stage of human history, prior to the New Heaven & New Earth of Revelation 21-22. Many surviving believers with mortal bodies will go on to bear children, born with sinful natures. As the decades and centuries pass, large groups will begin to rebel against the Lord. **Zechariah 14:17–19**

Millennial earth will be perfect. Satan will be imprisoned (**Rev 20**). No one will be able to say, “The devil made me do it.” No one will be able to blame the environment. But people with sinful human natures will reproduce. Sinners will give birth to sinners, who will become adult sinners. Earth’s population will gradually increasingly dominated by sin. At the end of the thousand years Satan is released to lead rebellious people in one brief, final, and abortive coup. Followed quickly by the Final Judgment of Revelation 20, then the New Heaven & Earth. Zech closes with what God has always wanted for the earth.

In the OT times the only object inscribed with the words, "Holy to the LORD" was the medallion on the turban of the High Priest. In the Mill Kingdom, however, everyday objects will be sacred. **Zechariah 14:20**

Canaanite was slang for anyone who was unclean or Godless. When Jesus establishes His thousand-year reign, earth will be as Eden was. At the close of it, He will usher in eternity – an entirely new era that is beyond our imagination. **Zechariah 14:21b**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What was the biggest lesson you learned throughout this series in Zechariah? Which concept challenged you the most because? Which gave you comfort?**
- **When you think of God using plague, what kinds of things come to mind? How can you use scripture to guard your mind against the temptation to see every up and coming viral/bacterial disease as “THE” plague?**
- **Describe a time when a *really* bad day or season in your life was actually a doorway to something great.**
- **Why would God allow Israel to be so devastated before He steps in to end the fight?**
- **The Bible tells us that while Jesus is ruling during the millennium, Earth’s population will gradually become dominated by sin. In what ways does today’s culture foreshadow that culture?**