

Zechariah 14

5-22-03

“Change IS Coming!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. The year 1969. The place the moon. The mission Apollo 11.
 - 1.1.1. They raised an **American flag** and left a **plaque**, signed by the Apollo 11 crew and President Richard Nixon, reading “**Here men from planet earth first set foot upon the moon. July 1969 a.d. we came in peace for all mankind.**”
 - 1.1.2. And we all remember when Neil Armstrong 1st stepped on the moon, the words which became the 20th centuries best known, “**That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.**” (Neil Armstrong)
 - 1.1.3. **Tonight** we have in Zechariah **not** one small step but, “**One giant step for God, one giant thrust for mankind!**”

2. Change IS Coming!

- 2.1. (1,2) **Armageddon...The 6th Bowl!**
- 2.2. (1) Note the typical Heb. “summary verse” of the sack of Jerusalem.
 - 2.2.1. The day **is** coming!
 - 2.2.2. **Those days will be shortened** - Mt.24:21,22
- 2.3. (2) **I will gather!** {So God’s to blame?} How does this work?
 - 2.3.1.1. **God gathers them** – Zech.14:2
 - 2.3.1.2. **Demons gather them** – Rev.16:14
 - 2.3.1.3. **The kings gather themselves** – Ps.2:2
 - 2.3.2. This is what some have called in theology → **Confluence** = “flowing together”. [Synonym is **Concurrence**]
 - 2.3.2.1. “**Ideas or events concur when they agree w/one another or flow together at the same time.**”¹
 - 2.3.3. **Example Job 1.** - We have a great cast of characters that were all involved in carrying out God’s ultimate bidding (**Now staring:** The Sabeans, the Chaldeans, Satan, Job, & God)
 - 2.3.3.1. **When the hedge was pulled back Satan seized the opportunity to unleash his assault against Job.**

¹ R.C Sproul; pg.79; The Invisible Hand.

- 2.3.4. **Example #2 – Joseph.** - A classic story of concurrence. What all his brothers, the Ishmaelites, Potiphar's wife, the chief butler who forgot him in prison meant for evil....God meant/planned for GOOD!!!
- 2.3.4.1. **Q:** Has a tragedy struck you or your family? Can you admit you **haven't read the end of your story.** A story that has been written **by God** before you were even around?
- 2.3.4.2. **Q:** Can you trust him tonight for the next chapter & chapters of your life?
- 2.3.4.3. **Q:** Do you believe He has your best interest in mind?
- 2.3.4.4. **Q:** Do you think He can in fact work **ALL** things together for good...for you too? **[By faith & facts, believe it tonight!]**
- 2.4. **6th Bowl (Rev.16:12-16)**
- 2.4.1. **Why 3 Frogs?** They are cold-blooded amphibians who dwell in 2 worlds. Many have poison in their skin. Many can change color at will, & can leap a remarkable distance.”
- 2.4.1.1. So these **demons** are cold-blooded fiends, creatures of 2 worlds, full of venom & poison for mankind, & are swift paced to lead men to their blood-bathed-end!
- 2.4.2. [16:15] We need to watch for Him! We also need to watch out for the “embrace the world”.
- 2.4.2.1. “The **Lion** of persecution might not be a threat to us, but we are being hugged by the **Bear** of this world.”
- 2.4.2.2. **Comfortable in his warm, fuzzy arms, but he's slowly squeezing & the church doesn't feel it!**
- 2.4.3. [16:16]**Armageddon:** har/hill Meggido (the hill of Meggido) Also called The plain of Esdraelon, Valley of Jezreel.
- 2.4.3.1. **Here:** Barak defeated the armies of Canaan, Gideon defeated the Midianites, and here King Saul lost his life.
- 2.4.3.2. **Post biblical times battles fought here:** The Egyptians, Christian Crusaders, Druz, Turks, Arabs, Persians, even Napoleon Bonaparte who called this “**The most natural battlefield of the whole earth!**”
- 2.5. (3-5) **2nd Coming!**
- 2.6. (3) Technical term for a king “going out” to battle.
- 2.7. (4) His feet will stand on the **Mount of Olives!**

- 2.7.1. **If a statue in the park** of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.
 If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.
 If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- 2.7.2. Here the Son of Man comes on His White Steed, dismounts, & the when the foot touches...look out!
 2.7.2.1. You can envision a **sledgehammer** cracking open a **walnut!**
- 2.7.3. Job remarked, “For I know that my Redeemer lives, And **He shall stand at last on the earth**; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,” (19:25)
- 2.7.4. **Q: Is this not the very last place His foot walked on this earth?**
- 2.7.4.1. Yes, Acts 1:11,12 “who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the **mount called Olivet**, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey.”
- 2.7.4.1.1. This also proves its “literal” fulfillment.
- 2.7.5. Also, **Ezekiel** tells us that when the Glory of the Lord departed from Jerusalem(11:23) it also departed from this mountain. “**The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.**”
- 2.7.6. **Show Picture** from Mnt. Of Olives!
- 2.7.6.1. It is a 2,700’ high central peak of a mile long, north & south ridge of limestone hills.
- 2.7.6.2. It rises 200’ above the Temple mount.
- 2.8. (5) **My mountain valley** – Maybe **valley of Jehoshaphat**(Joel 3:2,12)
- 2.8.1. Where God will judge the Gentiles? (i.e. sheep/goat judgment)
- 2.9. (5b) My favorite...“**& all the saints with Him!**”
- 2.9.1. 1 Thes.3:13 “that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**”

- 2.10. (6,7) **In the Heavens!**
- 2.11. Illumination, climate, topography all change in Jerusalem & most likely on the face of the **whole earth**.
- 2.11.1. Mt.19:28 "Assuredly I say to you, that in the **regeneration**, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
- 2.11.2. Light change - maybe just for that specific day of His return?
- 2.12. (8,9) **On the Earth!**
- 2.13. (8) **A channel carved out w/a 2-directional flow!**
- 2.13.1. This year-round provision will promote unsurpassed fertility throughout the land.
- 2.13.2. Is.35:1,2 "The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall **rejoice** and **blossom** as the rose; It shall blossom **abundantly** and **rejoice**, Even with **joy** and **singing**. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God."
- 2.13.3. **The Dead Sea – See Power Point Map**
- 2.13.4. **See Ezek.47:1-8**
- 2.13.5. Different from the River in Rev.22 (**Why? No Temple in the Rev one**)
- 2.14. (9) This is a pivotal point in the passage!
- 2.14.1. Here our, "**Thy kingdom come prayer**" is **finally answered!**
- 2.14.2. "**King over all the earth**" – That's why John says, "**King of Kings & Lord of Lord's**"
- 2.15. (10,11) **Jerusalem!**
- 2.15.1. (10) i.e. all of Jer.!
- 2.15.2. (11) This is for good. Never to be destroyed again!
- 2.16. (12-15) **Parentetical Flashback!** (to vs.2)
- 2.16.1. **The Plague** [12,15] – on the enemies(both human & beast)
- 2.16.2. **The Panic** [13] – from the Lord.
- 2.16.3. **The Plunder** [14] – taken from the Gentile armies.

- 2.17. (16-19) **Feast of Tabernacles!**
- 2.17.1. Finally, the nations will worship! – That’s all God has been seeking!
- 2.17.2. “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**” (Jn.4:23)
- 2.17.3. The **Feast of Tabernacles** was a feast of joyful celebration(Lev.23).
- 2.17.3.1. So the kingdom age will be a time of **holiness & happiness** in **worshiping & serving** the Lord.
- 2.18. (20,21) **Holiness to the Lord!**
- 2.19. (21) **Canaanite** – symbolic of anything ceremonially unclean & ungodly.
- 2.20. (20) This seems to be the removal of the dichotomy/split between **secular & sacred!**
- 2.20.1. **The Public Life** – “engraved on the bells of the horses.”
- 2.20.1.1. i.e. they are equal in holiness to the priests gold headband!
- 2.20.1.2. **Your dogs leash & collar are as holy as our communion trays!**
- 2.20.2. **The Religious Life** – “The pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.”
- 2.20.3. **The Private Life** - “every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts.”
- 2.20.4. **Show picture** of Pomegranate.
- 2.20.4.1. **Q:** Ok, so what **doesn't** have “Holiness to the Lord” written upon it in your life?
- 2.20.4.2. **Q:** Take a quick mental list of anything you “**can't**” write it upon? (in your home, garage, office) - **Get rid of it!**