

The Visions to Zechariah Zechariah 13:2-14:21

Lesson 8

In That Day – No More Idols, Prophets, Unclean Spirit

Zechariah 13:² "It will come about in that day," declares the Lord of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. ³"And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, 'You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the Lord'; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies. ⁴"Also it will come about in that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive; ⁵but he will say, 'I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.' ⁶"And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

On the day of the Battle of Armageddon, three things will be removed from the face of the earth forever: idols, prophets, and the unclean spirit. Idols known by many names in the Bible are listed in the following chart.

Names for Idols in the Bible

And their meanings

Elil	Thing of naught	Ps 97:7; Isa 19:3
Emah	Terror	Jer 50:38
Miphletzeth	Fright or horror	1Ki 15:13; 2Ch 15:16
Bosheth	Shame or shameful thing	Jer 11:13; Hos 9:10
Gillulim	Dung or refuse	Ezek 16:36; Ezek 20:8; Deut 29:17
Shikkuts	Filth or impurity	Ezek 37:23; Nah 3:6
Semel	Likeness or carved image	Deut 4:16
Tselem	Shadow	Dan 3:1; 1Sa 6:5
Temunah	Similitude	Deut 4:12-19
Atsab	Figure or wicked way or way of an idol	Isa 48:5; Ps 139:24
Tsir	Form or shape	Isa 45:16
Matztzebah	Statue	Jer 43:13, 2Ki 3:2; 2Ki 10:27
Hammanim	Sun-images	2Ch 34:4, 7; 2Ch 14:3, 5; Isa 17:8
Maskith	Device	Lev 26:1; Num 33:52; Ezek 8:12; 10; 11
Pesel	Graven or carved image	Isa 44:10-20, Deut 7:25; Deut 27:15; Isa 40:19; Isa 44:10
Massekah	Molten image	Deut 9:12; Jdg 17:3, 4
Teraphim	Images	Jdg 17:5; Jdg 18:14, 17, 18, 20; 1Sa 19:13; Jos 24:14

These idols represent false gods such as Molech, Chemosh, Astoriah and Buddha which will no longer exist because the Lord will destroy all their followers. Even their names will not be spoken after that day.

Prophets will no longer be needed because the Lord will be present on earth; anyone claiming to have a word from Him will be a liar. Will there be those who claim to be

prophets in those days? Absolutely! Why would the Lord include them in this passage if they did not exist? They are to be killed, run through, even by their parents. Any man who thinks he is a prophet should find another occupation such as farming. In those days a prophet's purpose will be to deceive his fellow man and the Lord will not allow it to happen.

The unclean spirit will also be removed from the earth on that day. On the surface, it is easy to associate the unclean spirit with the removal of Satan as prophesied in John's Revelation.³⁰ Satan will be cast into the watery abyss, bound in chains and secured behind a door for 1,000 years. All who encourage evil will be removed at the same time. The Bible does not directly address what will happen to all the demons who served Satan, but they will have to be restrained somehow during his watery imprisonment. With Zechariah's prophecies in place, the war can begin!

In That Day – The Lord's Call to War

Zechariah 13:⁷ "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man, My Associate," Declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

"Awake, O sword" is the Lord's call for the war to begin and He wants the enemy to attack first. Throughout Scripture, the sword is a symbol of the power to kill someone. Here, God calls for the army of evil to raise its sword against the Lord's Shepherd and Associate. They are not two different individuals; they are one Being. Everyone knows that the Shepherd is the Lord but why does the passage use the word Associate? Literally, it reads "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, the man of my Union." The Lord of hosts and the Shepherd are equal in their union; they are one and the same.

Because the Lord is not present on the earth at that time, the evil army cannot strike the Shepherd but it can strike the Shepherd's sheep. The army will attack the sheep as seen in the next verse, causing many of them to scatter in fear. The Lord is intentionally sending the evil army to attack Israel on the Day of Armageddon so He can destroy those Jews who will not follow Him. The same prophecy is found in Isaiah but in a longer form.

Isaiah 1:²¹ How the faithful city has become a harlot, She *who* was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, but now murderers. ²² Your silver has become dross, your drink diluted with water. ²³ Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves; everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them. ²⁴ Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts, The Mighty One of Israel, declares, "Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries and avenge Myself on My foes. ²⁵ "I will also turn My hand against you, And will smelt away your dross as with lye And will remove all your alloy. ²⁶ "Then I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning; After that you will be called the city of righteousness, A faithful city." ²⁷ Zion will be redeemed with justice and her repentant ones with righteousness. ²⁸ But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, and those who forsake the Lord will come to an end.

Not all Israelites can claim to represent the true Israel because some have not loved the Lord with their whole hearts. On that day, a remnant of Israel will turn to the grace of the Messiah and be saved not only spiritually, but also physically from the war. How many Israelites will die? Two-thirds of Israel will perish in the battle.

³⁰ Revelation 19

In That Day – Two Parts Perish – One Part Refined

Zechariah 13:⁸ "It will come about in all the land," Declares the Lord, "That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it."⁹ "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

As promised by the Lord, a remnant of Israel will be saved on that day to enter into the 1,000-year-kingdom as the premiere nation of the world, but not all Jews will survive the battle of that day. Only one-third of the Jews will survive the war of evil against Israel before the Lord breaks through the eastern skies for the Battle of Armageddon. All the Jewish leadership and their followers who still deny the Messiah will die that day. The one-third who survive will be tested in the war just as silver and gold are refined and tested by fire, but they will not curse God; instead, they will herald their faith in the Lord as their God. In the war, when they call on His name, He will answer them just as He answers everyone who calls on His name today. Two-thirds of the Jewish population will die that day because they will refuse to call on His name.

In that Day - Spoils Taken Returned

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

The unfaithfulness of the Jewish people throughout the centuries has been met with constant chastisement from the Lord but He has done so to keep them safe as the world progresses according to His prophecies. At times, they have lost their land and homes to enemy nations that were sent by the Lord to bring judgment on them because of their refusal to make Him Lord of lords. In the same manner, on the day of the Lord, He will send the evil army to attack them, but this time, the believing Jews will win. Everything that has ever been taken from them will be returned and divided among the one-third remnant that survives the war. It is a promise the Lord will keep. Today, Israel struggles to keep the borders of her Promised Land and she is doing so without the Lord as her Messiah. The promise is not just for the land; it is for every Jew who is alive in that day. All that has been taken from them will be returned, but not before they are attacked.

In that Day – Jerusalem Attacked

Zechariah 14:² 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.

In another pass through the timeline of the Day of the Lord, the Lord gives more details to what has already been said. The Lord expects the evil army to attack Jerusalem first and plunder half the city. Notice that the inhabitants of half the city will leave. Notice also that half the city will remain secure with its people intact. We do not know the duration of this siege against Jerusalem. What we do know is that when half the city is taken, the Lord will depart from heaven to fight against the army of the enemy and according to Amos 8:9, Zephaniah 2:4 and Psalm 91:6, it will occur at noon and the topography of the world will change when He arrives.

In that Day – Split of Mount of Olives

Zechariah 14:⁴ 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.

Other passages of Scripture detail the actual departure of the Lord from heaven and what transpires on His way to the Mount of Olives.³¹ Here, the Lord reveals what will happen to the Mount of Olives when the Lord touches down on its peak. For those on this side of the Lord's death, resurrection and ascension, the Mount of Olives is a special place. From its peak the Lord delivered His final earthly commission to His disciples and then He ascended to heaven. Sometime in the future, this Zechariah passage will be fulfilled with the Lord's return to the same place from which He departed. When He touches the mountain, it will split from east to west and form a great valley through which the exiled Jews will escape.

In that Day – Flight Through the Valley

Zechariah 14:^{5a} 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.

Surrounded by the enemy army, the Jews of the fallen half of Jerusalem will feel hopeless in their efforts to escape. At just the right time, the Lord will arrive on the Mount of Olives and the valley will be formed as an escape route. The passage mentions Azel which could be a town or a mountain range; however, it most likely means near to, or beside. The Jews are to escape by the valley formed near the Mount of Olives. The Jews fled Jerusalem during an earthquake back in the days of King Uzziah but little is known about that event except that it is also mentioned in Amos 1:1.

In that Day – Lord's Coming

Zechariah 14:^{5b} Then the Lord, my God, will come, *and* all the holy ones with Him!⁶ In that day 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.

Throughout Zechariah, the Lord of hosts is mentioned many times in the text. Who are the hosts with the Lord? Some say they are the angels, but that title doesn't make sense because the church, also called the bride, will exit the wedding chamber with the Lord and accompany Him on His trip to earth just before Armageddon.³² Here in Zechariah, the hosts are called the holy ones and they are the church. With the Second Coming of the Lord, the natural lighting expected at noon disappears into a strange atmosphere that is neither day nor night during the time of the Battle of Armageddon. How long does it last? By 6:00 pm that evening, the normal lighting of the sun, moon and stars will return. The battle will be over, and the Lord will be in total control.

³¹ 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

³² Revelation 19:7; 21:2

In that Day – Living Waters

Zechariah 14:⁸ And in that day 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.

With the Lord's takeover of the world, two new rivers of living waters will run out of the city of Jerusalem. The concept of a fountain of living waters was previously presented twice in Jeremiah.³³ In both passages the Lord refers to Himself as the fountain of living waters that the Jews have rejected. Here in Zechariah and a parallel passage in Ezekiel these living waters are two rivers which run from within the city, one to the Mediterranean Sea, one to the Dead Sea.³⁴ Ezekiel explains that these rivers are important because any creature that drinks from them will live. The living water concept is also found in the story of the woman at the well and in Jesus' sermon on the last day of the feast.³⁵ Fortunately, John recorded His words.

John 7:³⁷ Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The ones who believe in Jesus will have rivers of living waters flowing from his innermost being. John goes on to say that those rivers of living water refer to the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus will give to believers after He returns to heaven. The rivers of Zechariah and Ezekiel are literal rivers that flow to the two seas, giving life back to waters that were turned to blood during the past seven years of tribulation for Israel, as recorded in the Revelation of John. The rivers of living waters will appear with the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Additionally, no other name will ever be above the name of Jesus after that day.

In that Day – Jerusalem Changed

Zechariah 14:¹⁰ 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 People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

As the Mount of Olives splits in half, the earth will begin to rise and a plain will become the highest point on earth and Jerusalem will rise with it.³⁶ The plain will be approximately 50 miles by 50 miles, according to Ezekiel 48. It is virtually impossible to map the exact location of the gates and towers of Jerusalem because the city, its walls and gates have been destroyed and left in shambles for hundreds of years several times throughout history. Although we cannot map the exact placement of the gates, we do know the order of the gates as they were rebuilt under Nehemiah's direction in Zechariah's day.³⁷ Because the oracle has been revealed to Zechariah, it is safe to assume that the portion of the city that

³³ Jeremiah 2:15; 17:13

³⁴ Ezekiel 47:9

³⁵ John 4

³⁶ Micah 1:4

³⁷ Nehemiah 2-3

will rise with the plain when the mountain splits will be those gate boundaries as they were in Zechariah's day, wherever they had been. The plain and the risen city, as well as the entire world, will no longer struggle under the curse of sin. Moreover, Jerusalem will never again be attacked by enemies who want her for themselves; she belongs to the Lord, as does the entire world.

In that Day – Plague on the Lord's Enemy

Zechariah 14:¹² 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 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.

Once again, the Lord graphically describes the doom of those who have gathered to fight against the Israelites in Jerusalem. As they rot where they stand, they will turn on each other and fight in bewilderment and blindness until they are all dead.

In that Day – Judah's Fight at Jerusalem

Zechariah 14:¹⁴ 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.

As the enemy army fights against itself just outside Jerusalem, the tribe of Judah joins Jerusalem and they force the enemy from its city limits. As the enemy dies, the Jews will collect all the wealth that was brought to the battlefield and divide it among themselves but they do not collect the animals that were brought by the enemy; they have the same fate as their masters – they die.

After that Day – Remaining Gentiles

Zechariah 14:¹⁶ 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.

Not everyone from every Gentile nation will answer the call to gather in the valley to fight against the Lord; how many stay behind, we do not know, but this oracle assures that some will remain at home in those days. They will not be destroyed in the Battle of Armageddon because that war takes place just northwest of Jerusalem. Those who are left will be required to visit the Lord on His great white throne once a year during the celebration of the Feast of Booths.

The Feast of Booths, also known as Tabernacles, was the fourth required celebration of the Lord, found in Leviticus 23. The feast began on the 15th day of the month of Tishri and lasted for seven days. Makeshift shelters were built to commemorate the living arrangements of those used in the 40-year-wilderness journey. In the 1,000-year-kingdom, this celebration will require everyone, Jew and Gentile alike, to commemorate what the Lord has done. Fancy hotels will not be available when the people go to worship the Lord; simple makeshift booths will be the Lord's housing of choice in that day.

After that Day – Plague on Disobedience

Zechariah 14:¹⁷ 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 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.

Not all the Gentiles will follow the Lord's rule during the 1,000 years. When they fail to make the journey to worship Him, their nation will suffer because the Lord will withhold rain from their crops. Strangely, Egypt will be the chief culprit of this disobedience because they are one of the countries nearest to Jerusalem.

After that Day – Horses and Pots Holy to the Lord

Zechariah 14:²⁰ 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. ^{21a} 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.

Holiness will engulf the world during the Lord's 1,000-year-reign and everything on the plain will be inscribed with the words, "Holy to the Lord." A form of the sacrificial system will be instituted to feed all who visit the Lord during that time but it will not be the old Mosaic system. It will not be a sacrifice for salvation but rather a sacrifice for sustenance.

After that Day – No More Canaanites

Zechariah 14:^{21b} And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts in that day.

The oracle ends with a unique promise that "there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord." Who are the Canaanites? According to Isaiah and Joel they are the unclean, ungodly people.³⁸ In Old Testament history, they are the descendants of Canaan, the grandson of Noah and son of Ham. After the Tower of Babel, they migrated to the Persian Gulf but then moved west to what we know as Israel or the Promised Land. By the time of Abraham, seven tribes of Canaanites were identifiable and later recorded in the pages of Exodus.³⁹ Tyre and Sidon were the most famous cities of the Canaanites. When the Israelites were released from the wilderness to enter the Promised Land, Joshua was told to destroy the Canaanites, but he failed to do so.⁴⁰ Canaanites still lived in the land at the time of David⁴¹ and were still in great numbers after the Jews returned from the Babylonian exile.⁴² What was the chief complaint of the Lord against them? Why did the Lord want them destroyed? The answer is the same to both questions - they worshipped Baal. Because Joshua did not destroy them, they have been a thorn in Israel's side even to this day. Alexander the Great virtually wiped out the Philistines in 333-332 BC, but the surviving tribesmen married the Phoenicians of Tyre and Sidon and repopulated the area.

³⁸ Isaiah 35:8; 52:1; Joel 3:17

³⁹ Ex 3:8, 23:23, 33:2, 34:11; Deut 7:1, Jos 3:10

⁴⁰ Ex 23:23, Num 33:52-53; Deut 20:16-17

⁴¹ 2 Sam 5:6-7

⁴² 1 Kings 9:20-21

They are known as the Palestinians today and they want Israel and the city of Jerusalem for themselves.⁴³ It is a battle that dates back to 1405 BC. When will it be over? When will the Palestinians as well as all their other Canaanite relatives leave Israel alone? It will not occur until they are all destroyed at the Battle of Armageddon. Then there will be no Canaanites in the world and there will surely be no Canaanites in the House of the Lord. Idolatry will be abolished and the Lord will be the King on His throne in Jerusalem.

⁴³ Emperor Hadrian mispronounced the name of the Philistines using the word Palestinians in all of his Roman documents.