

Our passage begins, "On that day." Verse 4 tells us that day is when Jesus' feet stand on the Mount of Olives and He brings all His holy ones with Him. The enemies of God that have come against Jerusalem will be annihilated and the remnant of Israel will all know Jesus as their Messiah and Savior, both spiritually and physically.

⁶ On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. Zechariah 14:6-7 The Kingdom of God will have been established in the earth with Jesus upon the throne. No more extreme temperatures or end of the day with the setting sun. The new order will have come. The light of the new creation is the glory of God and the Lamb is the lamp of it according to Revelation 21:23ⁱ (Isaiah 30:26ⁱⁱ).

Isaiah tells us *¹⁹ The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. ²² The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.* Isaiah 60:19-22 Notice that the days of mourning will be ended. Remember that when the remnant of Jews sees the Messiah they will mourn as one mourns for the death of a firstborn son (Zechariah 12:10ⁱⁱⁱ). Righteousness is the crown of all who love Jesus appearing (2 Timothy 4:8^{iv}). That they are the branch of God's planting reminds us of Isaiah 5, which sadly ended with the abandonment of the vine to the ravages of nature because it bore bad fruit, injustice, bloodshed, and cries of despair (Isaiah 5:7^v). Our passage today is of the replanting of the branch but now with the sap of the Spirit flowing freely and producing good fruit, the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23^{vi}).

"At evening time there shall be light" reminds me of Alaska in the summer. It was fascinating to me how the extended daylight hours seemed to give extra energy to be active for more hours than you would otherwise. It also produces huge crops. Is this a metaphor for the light of Christ shining brightly throughout the thousand-year reign or is it also physical? The next verse tells us there are seasons. We'll find out when it comes to pass.

⁸ On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. Zechariah 14:8 The valley created by Jesus' feet opens up a spring that is reminiscent of the waters that flowed from Eden (Genesis 2:10^{vii}; Revelation 22:1^{viii}). Half goes to the western sea, the Mediterranean, and half to the Dead Sea. The mountains that currently surround Zion will have become a plain. This river doesn't rise and fall as many rivers do seasonally, but it is always consistent. Living water refers to flowing fresh waters, but in this case it is more than that. Ezekiel describes it in chapter 47 of his prophecy. Ezekiel 47:8-12 *⁸ And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern*

region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. ⁹ And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. ¹¹ But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. ¹² And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

Four different prophets predict this river that will flow from under the throne in Jerusalem (Isaiah 33:21^{ix}; Ezekiel 47:1^x; Joel 3:18^{xi} and Zechariah). It must have great significance. It will certainly be a sign that the One who sits on the throne is the source of life and refreshment.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. Zechariah 14:9 We will no longer pray, "Thy kingdom come," for He will have heard our prayers and will reign supreme. Justice at last for the survivors of the Tribulation and all who dwell on the earth. At last, man's attempt to rule himself will be over. The lesson will be clear. We need Christ to reign for without Him all mankind is corrupt and selfish. He is the only God! Daniel's vision will have come to pass: *⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,* Daniel 2:44

It appears men will still have free will but to keep sin from running rampant and marring the kingdom, Jesus will deal swiftly with those areas that refuse to submit to His righteous reign. We saw in the previous chapter that false teaching will no longer be tolerated (Zechariah 13:2^{xii}).

¹⁰ The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹ And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security. Zechariah 14:10-11 The exaltation of Jerusalem above the surrounding land may be the result of the great earthquake, but it is symbolic of it being the world capital from which Jesus reigns over all (Isaiah 2:1-4^{xiii}; Ezekiel 38:19^{xiv}; Revelation 16:18^{xv}).

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. Zechariah 14:12 The destruction of Egypt's army in the Red Sea and Sennacherib's host destroyed by one angel were mere shadows of what will take place when the LORD fights for Israel.

It sounds like nuclear destruction or biological warfare, but we know it is the power of the LORD and His justice whatever the means.

13 And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. Zechariah 14:13 Panic was the word used to describe the charioteers when the wheels fell off Egypt's chariots and they realized they were fighting God Almighty (Exodus 14:24-25^{xvi}). The forces against Israel fighting and destroying one another was seen both in Gideon's and Jehoshaphat's attack against armies that far outnumbered them (Judges 7:12^{xvii}, 22^{xviii}; 2 Chronicles 20:23^{xix}, Ezekiel 38:21^{xx}). The setting "on that day" will be very similar, only as saw in the previous passage (13:8^{xxi}), the Jews will suffer a great loss before they accept the Messiah and the tide of battle turns.

Why has the story repeated itself so many times? Why is this tiny nation always under threat from superior forces and yet somehow survives? It is because is showing us that God is the main factor in any battle (Romans 8:31^{xxii}), including the one you fight with your old nature. This was His chosen nation and from the line of Judah the Messiah would come. These are they from whom will come the entire remnant which embraces Jesus as the Messiah. You would think Satan would give up after so many defeats, and yet he cannot help himself. He hates what God loves and will continue to attack it until he meets his eternal destiny (Revelation 20:7-10^{xxiii}).

14 Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. Zechariah 14:14 The spoils of the defeated armies will bring an abundance of wealth into the city. The mention of Judah fighting at Jerusalem takes us back to chapter 12 again to remind us it is a description of the same event when *the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.* Zechariah 12:8b The enemies will not stand a chance.

15 And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps. Zechariah 14:15 Not only do the soldiers suffer the plague, but all their animals do as well. Are they simply figurative for the equipment used on that day, or does the use of EMP make mechanical devices useless so that animals must be used? Again, we'll find out when that day comes, or perhaps something will happen before that which causes man to resort to animals in warfare. Who knows, perhaps genetic engineering will make animals preferable to machines.

16 Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. Zechariah 14:16 There will be people on the earth who survive the Great Tribulation and live on into the Millennial Kingdom. They will make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem each year to the Feast of Booths to worship the LORD, the King over all the earth. By the way, we happen to be in the week of the Feast of Booths right now. The Jews celebrate God's provision for them during the wilderness journey but the

reality behind the shadow of this feast is that we are passing through the wilderness of this life on our way to the Promised Land. On this journey, God meets all our needs, faithfully providing for us in miraculous ways. There are battles, but if we look to Him we will win in the end. The feasts remind us to thank the LORD and trust His direction and timing but also warn us not to murmur (Exodus 16:2^{xxiv}; 1Corinthians 10:9-10^{xxv}). The Feast of Booths/Tabernacles teaches us to have no fear as we cross Jordan and enter the Promised Land. In other words, we will celebrate not only the liberation of the Jews from Egypt, but the liberation of us all from sin as well as reminding us of God's provision and guidance through this life. The sacrifices will be a remembrance of the great sacrifice upon the cross just as the Jews looked forward through the sacrifices to the One that would come as the Lamb of God (John 1:29^{xxvi}), we look back in gratitude.

I have noticed that whenever I speak of this it is often met with resistance. I think that is because there is a lack of understanding how all that took place under the Law had deeper spiritual significance. If Jesus said all the Scriptures were about Him (Luke 24:44-45^{xxvii}), we should do as the Apostle Paul and the other Apostles did and look deeper into what was written in the Old Testament to see Jesus. God instituted the feast days and therefore just as creation teaches of His invisible attributes (Romans 1:20^{xxviii}), the feast days point eternal things. We all understand that Passover richly spoke of the Lamb whose blood spares us from the second death pointed to the cross. Tabernacles speaks of Jesus guiding us on our journey through the wilderness of this life. It also celebrated God's goodness in providing a harvest. The harvest of the souls worshiping the Lord is probably another reason for the feast in that day (John 4:35^{xxix}).

17 And if any of the families of the earth do 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 and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. 19 This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. Zechariah 14:17-19 The population of the earth will have been decimated during the Great Tribulation or Jerusalem could not hold all who will come. If they refuse to worship the King, they will not have rain for their crops. There will be no doubt about Jesus and His authority then. Resistance and refusal to obey will be obvious rebellion against God's goodness. The lack of rain is a reminder to them that every good gift is from Him (James 1:17^{xxx}), therefore rebellion is ingratitude and resisting God's goodness. The lesson will be clear.

Imagine if in our day every time someone failed to obey the commands of God they suffered immediate consequences. They would probably complain that it was forced obedience. Today people ask why God doesn't do that and make His will more clearly known by swiftly dealing with evil (Matthew 11:17^{xxxi}). In that day the history of man will have had both conditions, freedom to sin without immediate consequences as so often the case now, and in that day immediate consequences so that it will be plain that the problem is not with God but with our evil hearts.

20 And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. 21 And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

Zechariah 14:20-21 Every common thing in Jerusalem will be holy so that a great multitude can worship there. What was only on the high priest's turban (Exodus 28:36^{xxxii}) will now be written on common things, "holy to the Lord." All things were meant to be for God and dedicated to Him. That is not oppressive dictatorial rule of an egomaniac, but the reign of God who is good and only does what is good out of love. He is a God whose steadfast love never fails and who is always faithful, merciful, and gracious but is also just and holy.

The final line should remind us of Jesus cleansing the temple. Jesus said they had made the court of the Gentiles a den of robbers (Matthew 21:14^{xxxiii}). The word "trader" here can also be translated Canaanite. There will be no unbelievers in Jerusalem. There will be no merchants who cheat the people by religious pretext. Worship will be pure and uncorrupted (see 3:9^{xxxiv}). All who dwell on the earth will see the truth plainly displayed if they are willing to see it. No one will be able to say they didn't know.

You would think all would see clearly the goodness of God and submit to Him, but sadly, even though Satan is bound during that time (Revelation 20:2^{xxxv}), man will still rebel at the end of the thousand years. We saw in chapter 13 the false prophets will still be around (13:2^{xxxvi}). We read in Revelation that the end of the thousand-year reign will be an attack on Jerusalem, as those who dwell on the earth will be tired of God constantly dealing with them for their good and will listen to Satan who is released for a season (Revelation 20:7-9^{xxxvii}).

The final lesson of man's evil heart will be clear. No will be able to say they didn't know what they were doing. Judgment will be final. After the judgment God will create a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness (Revelation 21:1^{xxxviii}). Only the redeemed will walk those streets of gold. Only those who humbled themselves to realize they were sinners in need of Savior and accepted the gracious forgiveness provided for us in Jesus' sacrificial death will be in that heavenly city. I hope and pray you who hear this message will be among them.

Questions

- 1 What takes place immediately preceding this passage?
- 2 What physical changes take place? 3 What do those changes signify?
- 4 Why does God deal differently with mankind in that day?
- 5 What happens to the armies that fight against Jerusalem?
- 6 Why would we keep the Feast of Booths?
- 7 What will man learn from quick justice?
- 8 Why would there be sacrifices?
- 9 What happens at the end of the millennium?
- 10 Is Jesus your Lord and Savior?

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- ⁱ **Revelation 21:23 (ESV)** ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- ⁱⁱ **Isaiah 30:26 (ESV)** ²⁶ Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.
- ⁱⁱⁱ **Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.
- ^{iv} **2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)** ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- ^v **Isaiah 5:7 (ESV)** ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!
- ^{vi} **Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- ^{vii} **Genesis 2:10 (NIV)**
- ¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.
- ^{viii} **Revelation 22:1 (ESV)** ¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- ^{ix} **Isaiah 33:21 (ESV)** ²¹ But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass.
- ^x **Ezekiel 47:1 (ESV)** ¹ Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.
- ^{xi} **Joel 3:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ "And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.
- ^{xii} **Zechariah 13:2 (ESV)** ² "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.
- ^{xiii} **Isaiah 2:1-4 (ESV)** ¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,
- ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
- ^{xiv} **Ezekiel 38:19 (ESV)** ¹⁹ For in my jealousy and in my blazing wrath I declare, On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.
- ^{xv} **Revelation 16:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.
- ^{xvi} **Exodus 14:24-25 (ESV)** ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic,
- ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."
- ^{xvii} **Judges 7:12 (ESV)** ¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.
- ^{xviii} **Judges 7:22 (ESV)** ²² When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

xix **2 Chronicles 20:23 (ESV)** ²³ For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

xx **Ezekiel 38:21 (ESV)**

²¹ I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord GOD. Every man's sword will be against his brother.

xxi **Zechariah 13:8 (ESV)**

⁸ In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

xxii **Romans 8:31 (ESV)** ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

xxiii **Revelation 20:7-10 (ESV)** ⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

xxiv **Exodus 16:2 (KJV)**

² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

xxv **1 Corinthians 10:9-10 (ESV)**

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

xxvi **John 1:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

xxvii **Luke 24:44-45 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

xxviii **Romans 1:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

xxix **John 4:35 (ESV)**

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

xxx **James 1:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

xxxi **Matthew 11:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'

xxxii **Exodus 28:36 (ESV)**

³⁶ "You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.'

xxxiii **Matthew 21:13 (ESV)**

¹³ He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

xxxiv **Zechariah 3:9 (ESV)**

⁹ For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.

xxxv **Revelation 20:2 (ESV)**

² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

xxxvi **Zechariah 13:2 (ESV)**

² "And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so

that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness.

^{xxxvii} **Revelation 20:7-9 (ESV)**

⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

^{xxxviii} **Revelation 21:1 (ESV)**

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.