



LESSON 12

You are Holy unto the Lord forever (Zech 14)

After Israel returned from the Babylonian exile around 520 BC, they remained in the land for close to 600 years. Unfortunately, they were exiled once more in AD 70 under the Romans' persecution, and that exile lasted almost 2000 years. They returned once again as a nation in 1948. Is this the final re-gathering that Zechariah spoke about? Most secular Jews today do not acknowledge that God was the One who brought them back to the land. Rather, they believe it was their military genius and intellectual shrewdness that had earned them their land back. Will they be exiled once again before the remnants finally return to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah?

UNDERSTANDING

1. Zechariah 14 begins with "Look! The day of the Lord is coming!" (NKJV). (Unfortunately, the NIV translation of this verse loses this sense of calling us to attention). Mark the phrase "day of the Lord" or "on that day" in Zech 14.
2. Each repetition of "on that day" is like the beating of a gong that announces what God is going to do. From our study in Week 9, we understand "that day" refers to a future event when Christ comes again. What will happen to Jerusalem on "that day" according to Zech 14:2?
3. What will the Lord do in response to the event in v2? (Zech 14:3)
4. For an understanding of verses 4 & 5, please refer to the enclosed map of Jerusalem (pictures, left). Note the position of the Temple, Mount of Olives and the Kidron Valley in between them. The dotted horizontal line represents the new valley when the Mount of Olives will split from East to West and the split mountain will move North and South according to the dotted arrow. The solid arrow represents the approximate position on Mount Olive, from which the photo of Jerusalem was taken from.



5. What will happen to the following on “that day”?
 - a. light (v6 & 7) _____

 - b. living waters (v8) _____

 - c. kingship (v9) _____

 - d. Jerusalem
 - i. v10 _____
 - ii. v11 _____
 - e. Nations against Jerusalem
 - i. (v12) _____
 - ii. (v13) _____
 - iii. (v14) _____
 - iv. (v15) _____
 - f. Survivors of the nations against Jerusalem (v16-19) _____

 - g. Common things (v20 & 21a) _____

 - h. House of God (v21b) _____

(Note: some versions translate the word “Canaanite” as “trader” because it is the same word in Hebrew)

REFLECTING

The events “on that day” listed in Zech 14:1-15 set the scene for the Feast of Tabernacles. Firstly, Jerusalem will be attacked by all the nations and terrible things will happen to it (v1-2). This time, their military might will not deliver them but the Lord himself will fight against the nations (v3). The earth and the sky will experience impossible changes (v4-8) that man can only conclude as a divine invasion. The Lord alone is King on that day (v9) which is the fullness of the kingdom of God. Jerusalem will at last be at peace (v10-11) but the nations that fight against Jerusalem will be stricken with plagues (v12-15), more terrible than what they had done to Jerusalem (v 1-2).

6. Mark the repetition of the “Feast of Tabernacles” in v16-19. Who are the ones who will gather to worship the Lord of Hosts in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles every year?

7. What could be the reason that they are the survivors (v16)? What will happen to the survivors who do not gather to worship during the Feast of Tabernacles? (v17-19)

8. Probably, the survivors are those who did not join their nations in attacking Jerusalem. The Feast of Tabernacles has two other names: Feast of Booths (Lev 23:43) and Feast of In-gathering (Ex 23:16). This feast is celebrated after the harvest every year. Jesus speaks figuratively about the harvest to refer the in-gathering of the end times (Matt 9:37, 13:30). Review Zech 14:1-15; what must happen first before this in-gathering?

9. What will happen after the in-gathering? (v20-21)

APPLYING

The Feast of Tabernacles is a prophetic picture of the final in-gathering when the fullness of the kingdom of God shall come in. It will culminate in “Holiness unto the Lord”. Everything will be Holy unto Him, even the most common things, like the bells of horses, pots and bowls. There will no longer be unholy “Canaanites” or “traders” in the temple of God anymore. Jesus cleared the traders from the physical temple 2000 years ago. His house, the eternal kingdom shall be utterly holy, holy, holy...

10. Of the various characters mentioned in Zech 14, which category do we belong to? Is it Jerusalem? Nations against Jerusalem? or Survivors of nations who came against Jerusalem?

11. While we see the people of Israel are still far away from God even though they have re-gathered as a nation, how should we pray for them?

12. Besides praying for the remnants of Israel to turn to Jesus and be saved, what else can we do to hasten their salvation?

13. On that day, even the common shall be holy unto the Lord. What hope can you have for yourself in Christ no matter how unworthy you may be?

YOU ARE HOLY UNTO HIM! HALLELUJAH! Return! Rebuild the altar in your lives because you are the temple of the Holy Spirit!