

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ZECHARIAH 14****Zechariah 14**

The name Zechariah means "YHWH remembers." This is the prophet's name, and this is his message of hope and a future for the people of God during the days of his prophecy. Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai, the prophet. The two together called the people of God to repentance, renewal, spiritual revival, and to finish the work that had begun fourteen years earlier under the reign of Cyrus the Great.

Zechariah's prophesy has a two-fold message and purpose. The first was to call the people, primarily the leaders, and leadership, back to the God of their fathers. Somehow the people who had returned to the promised land from Babylonian exile had gotten detoured on the road to fulfilling God's will for their return. They had started living for their own good, not God's. They had stopped building God's house and began building their own houses. In short, they were not fulfilling the very purpose God had brought them back into the land to do. Zechariah knew that the building of God was in ruins because, in a real sense, the leadership had gotten sidetracked. Therefore, the people followed. Any nation, company, church, or family will never rise any higher than the leadership of that entity. The leaders got off purpose spiritually, and the people followed.

The second purpose of Zechariah's prophesy was to call the people back to building a central worship center, whose foundation was laid fourteen years earlier. The central worship center, the second temple, is part of

God's plan for the events of the coming of the Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Like Isaiah, Zechariah has much to say about the Messiah's first and second comings to earth. The redemption that was accomplished through the shedding of blood at His first coming and the rule and reign of Messiah that will be enacted when Messiah returns victoriously at His second coming.

Zechariah fourteen is an incredible prophecy concerning the return of Messiah to Jerusalem to reign. Chapters thirteen and fourteen give much-needed hope to the remnant of God's people then and now. There is coming a day when Messiah's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, the mountain ridge just east of Temple Mount/Mount Moriah. When His feet touch the mountain, a great earthquake will happen, and the Mount of Olives will be split in half supernaturally. The split will not be north to south as the fault line historically and presently runs, but rather the mountain will split east to west, and half the mountain will split north and half the mountain to the south. This will open the way for the river of God from underneath the Temple Mount/Mount Moriah to flow all the way to the lowest point on earth, the Salt/Dead Sea. The prophet Ezekiel says the water will be so voluminous and pure that it will make the 33%-35% salty water of the Dead Sea live with greenery and fish! This water will be so pure that people will swim and fish in the Dead Sea, which is impossible today. According to the prophecy, everything changes after Zechariah fourteen, and a period called the Messianic Age will be ushered in upon the earth.

Prayer and Action Steps

During these days between when the Lord Jesus left two thousand years ago and His return to the earth, the prophecies concerning Israel will come to pass. The church, which is made up of both Jews and non-Jews, will be persecuted and tempted away from the service of the king. But in the end, Messiah will come again, and He will rule the entire world from a new temple on Mount Moriah. The LORD Himself will have the last say. Be encouraged!