



IN THE VALLEY OF
LIVING WATERS

Z E C H A R I A H ' S C O N T E X T A N D M E S S A G E

- Zechariah (whose book was written around 520 BC and is the longest of the minor prophets) was called to his ministry to encourage the resettled Jews in Jerusalem to finish building the temple. Having returned from their captivity and now living under the relatively benevolent rule of the Persians, the people needed to be reminded to put their hope in God's promises, especially the coming Messiah.
- The last entries in the book are especially concerned with the Messiah, His rule and character, and the spiritual reformation of Jerusalem as the centerpiece of a peaceful, holy, and diverse heavenly kingdom.
- "In that day" is used repeatedly in these entries. One must be careful to tread lightly in the interpretation of each vision, symbol, or dramatic scene. Even among faithful and pious scholars there is some wide variance on how to apply Zechariah's words.



JERUSALEM DESPOILED

- The “spoil taken from you”, more than anything else, is a sense of national identity and autonomy. Everything else can be rebuilt and repurchased. Independence, once lost, is almost impossible to regain!
- So it was their continual struggle, since the time Nebuchadnezzar’s iron fist came down upon them, to restore the kingdom. It was their earnest expectation that the Messiah Himself would defeat their enemies, once and for all. Zechariah 14 was, in fact, one of the key scriptures that formed the basis for this expectation!
- While there were times of peace and relative prosperity, and even nominal political independence (such as under the Maccabees), it never felt like true Israel was ever fully restored. The “nations” were always at the gate, ever-menacing. Succeeding powers (the Ptolemies of Egypt, Seleucids of Syria, and eventually the Romans) played “tug-of-war” over the region.

THE LORD
WILL FIGHT



MOUNT OF OLIVES

- One of three peaks in a ridge separated from Jerusalem by the Kidron Valley, Olivet was known in ancient times for its grove of Olive trees, as well its vast cemetery (today approximately 150,000 graves are there).
- The Lord plants His feet upon the mountain and splits it in two, pushing the two halves in separate directions and creating a valley through which salvation from their enemies is found. The “holy ones” are saved from destruction (v. 5).
- **APPLICATION:** Be willing to leave everything and follow God where He commands. Like Lot’s wife, who just couldn’t resist the temptation to turn around, or the men from Luke 9:57ff who want to follow Jesus but make excuses, so many of us are not fully committed to the path God has laid out for us. The old life in Jerusalem was death — a city destined for destruction. The new life, through the valley made by the Lord, leads to the New Jerusalem. It is vibrant, illuminating, and saving!

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain valley. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by dark, forested mountain slopes. A light-colored, winding river flows through the valley floor. The background shows more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a soft, golden light, suggesting either dawn or dusk. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

A UNIQUE DAY OF
DIVINE LIGHT
& LIVING WATER

THE LORD WILL BE KING OVER ALL

- **The Lord's rule extends over all the world (v. 9). This doesn't mean everybody submits to His rule, as the coming verses illustrate. Messiah, according to Psalm 110:2, shall "rule in the midst of" His enemies.**
- **The land will be changed into a smooth, wide-open plain, with the fully restored Jerusalem raised above it, the centerpiece of the Lord's kingdom (vv. 10-11). There is no curse there, and the people dwell in total security. This is the same language used of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21. It not only promises the eternal peace of those who trust in the Lord, but a new beautiful life now (like a foretaste).**
- **Rejection of the Lord results in disturbing corruption (vv. 12-15). This is the effect of sin and rebellion on our lives. We are living corpses, cashing in the wages of sin as we flail about in hard-hearted rebellion.**



CELEBRATION

The repentant will join the Lord in celebrating the Feast Of Tabernacles (v. 16). In the forgiveness and restoration offered by the Lord, there will be unity created (vv. 20-21). Every vessel will be holy and useful to the Lord, even the things that were once considered common or unclean.



SO WHERE IS THE
CONNECTION?

JESUS IN JERUSALEM

JOHN 7 — Jesus comes to the feast in secret, at first. The question on everyone's mind...
"Is He the Christ?" (see verses 12, 25-27, 31, 40-43)

Zechariah 14

New Testament

- Jerusalem is plundered, salvation only through escape.
- The Lord takes His stand on Mount Olivet to fight for His people.
- Darkness and confusion in that unique day, but light in the end.
- "Living waters flowing from Jerusalem", going to the east and west.
- Celebration of the Feast of Booths.
- All vessels made holy.
- Matthew 24 predicts destruction and a warning to flee.
- Jesus goes to Mount Olivet (Jn. 8:1); prays there before His betrayal; Ascension.
- "I am the light of the world" (8:12); sun darkened at the crucifixion.
- Quote from 7:38; Connected to the Spirit on Day of Pentecost; Great Commission.
- John 7 takes place during the same feast.
- Vessels of honor (2 Tim. 2:20ff).