



The Climax

To grasp the beauty of Zechariah's climactic final chapter, we must reflect on Jesus Christ as the centerpiece of Zechariah's ministry. He is the rider on the red horse in chapter 1 protecting the Jewish remnant, the builder that measures Jerusalem for future blessing in chapter 2, the one who makes us clean and fit for service in chapter 3, the one that empowers us by His Spirit in chapter 4, the one that enforces righteousness and removes wickedness from Israel in chapter 5, who in chapter 6 overtakes Israel's enemies and is crowned as the priest-king, the one in chapter 7 that requires true worship from the people of God, who in chapter 8 restores the nation and provides security and prosperity, he is the triumphal king of chapter 9, the provider of Kingdom blessings in chapter 10, the good shepherd of chapter 11, the defender of Israel in chapter 12, the fountain for cleansing in chapter 13, and in this final chapter, the victorious reigning priest-king Messiah of the whole world whose Kingdom exhibits holiness. This final chapter brings it all together.

1. **The Day of the Lord (14:1-2):** This is the only verse in Zechariah that uses "the day of the Lord." We must read this verse as building on 13:8-9 and explaining how God will preserve a refined remnant of Israel. The epic final battle (Armageddon) begins with Gentile enemies taking Jerusalem.

2. **Triumphal Entry (14:3-7):** Verse 3 opens with Jesus' return to fight Israel's enemies. This is the second triumphal entry of Zechariah 9 and the victory detailed in Revelation 19:11-21.

— Jesus returns in response to the national revival of Zech. 12-13

— He splits the Mount of Olives to create a valley of escape for the remnant still in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 1:11-12). This is likely the same valley of judgment in Joel 3:2, 12.

— There will be a sign of his imminent return when the darkness is lifted and light appears (14:6-7).

3. **King Over the Whole Earth (14:8-15):** Jesus will not only cleanse the land of its enemies, but will engage in re-creation to prepare the land for an era of prosperity.

— He will create 2 rivers sourced in Jerusalem, one that flows to the Mediterranean and one to the Dead Sea, and they will flow year around. (14:8)

— Jesus will be king over the entire world (cf. Zech. 9:10) and all false religion will be gone. (14:9; cf. Deut. 6:4)

— There will be topographical changes so that the new rivers flow, and Jerusalem will be physically elevated. (14:10)

— There will be security in Jerusalem. (14:11)

— A plague will destroy the remaining enemy troops. (14:12-13; 14:15)

— Judah will fight and plunder the nations, just as in Exodus the Israelites left Egypt with riches. (14:14)

4. **The Nations Joined to the Lord (14:16-21):** There will be a Gentile remnant who travel to worship Jesus in Jerusalem (14:16-18) and in particular to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. The spiritual revival of Chapters 12-13 fulfilled the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The kingdom fulfills the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorated God and His people together in the wilderness. There is debate about the nature of how the Feast of Tabernacles is kept, and in particular its animal sacrifices. Everything will be holy and there will be no evildoers (14:20-21).