

Message #19**Zechariah 14:16-21**

According to FBI statistics for 2016 there were 1,248,185 violent crimes committed in the United States. Murder and manslaughter offenses increased 8.6 percent. Aggravated assault increased 5.1 percent and rape increased 4.9 percent. There were 7,919,035 property crimes and through burglaries, larceny thefts, motor vehicle thefts, people suffered losses of 15.6 billion dollars. It is obvious from looking at these statistics that we are not living in a world that is godly. Things are so bad these days that I can barely stand to listen to the news. We are certainly not living in the millennium right now, that is for sure.

Just imagine what the world would be like if Jesus Christ were here on earth ruling the world in total righteousness. Think what it would be like to turn on the TV or watch the news in a perfect world that was dominated by what is holy, good and true.

Let's think, for a moment, about what life was like when God first created it. He created a man and a woman and He put them in His created world to live and enjoy life. They initially could enjoy life and they had a wonderful relationship with God. Of course, we know that the whole thing fell apart. But that is what it was like for a while. For a brief moment in history, everything was wonderful. But it sure isn't now.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God's program went from an individual program with sinners Adam and Eve, to a national program with sinners in Israel, and then to an individual salvation program with sinners who become part of the church. After this part of the program is over, it will go back to a national program with sinful Israel, and that will take us to God's program on earth that will bring us back to an Eden-type of existence. So by the time we get to the end of the book of Revelation, we will be back to square one.

The people will be living on earth enjoying the blessings of life and of God and having wonderful fellowship with God. Everything on earth will be Holy. Jesus Christ will be here in Person, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2) and life will be wonderful. That is how Zechariah signs off the book:

WHEN JESUS CHRIST ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH, ALL NATIONS WILL COME TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP HIM AND EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD AND EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WILL BE HOLY.

Now in this chapter we have seen that Jesus Christ returns from heaven and He puts His nail-scarred feet on top of the Mount of Olives (14:4). The mountain splits in two and He demolishes all the enemies of Israel and makes the Promised Land a land filled with the blessings of God.

He comes back and takes over the world and He will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In the aftermath of His return there are some things God wants us to know. There are six final observations we want to make:

OBSERVATION #1 – There will be people left from various nations who survived the Tribulation. **14:16a**

Now we have learned that when Jesus Christ returns, many nations will have been completely destroyed. We saw that last time. Many nations will come up against Israel near the end of the Tribulation and they will be obliterated.

But there will be some nations that will still exist. One of the first things Jesus said He would do when He came back a second time was to judge the nations (Matthew 25:31-46). That judgment will be based on how those surviving people treated Israel.

Now it is clear from this verse that nations had originally been “against Jerusalem.” But there will have been individuals in those nations who helped the Jew and they will be permitted to enter the Kingdom.

OBSERVATION #2 – Those who survived from various nations will go to Jerusalem to worship the King, who is the LORD of hosts. **14:16b**

Those who survive from the nations will be required to actually physically go to Jerusalem every year to worship the King of the Jews and, as we will see, to honor Israel.

All people in the world will worship Jesus Christ. No one will be exempt. No one else will be worshipped. This will be a glorious time when all people of the world worship Jesus Christ. Godly, millennial Gentiles from all over the world will annually go to worship the King.

Some have suggested that this will be a national representative worship, in which representatives from all nations will go to worship Jesus Christ. I am not certain about that because **verse 17** seems to suggest there will be individual family responsibility. But this will be a glorious time when the will of God for all nations of the world will finally be realized. They will go annually to Jerusalem to worship Jesus Christ.

For the most part, right now, the entire world is in rebellion against Jesus Christ but ultimately the whole world will worship Him. Every knee will one day bow before Him and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

Carefully observe exactly who Jesus Christ actually is stated to be here—He is “the LORD of hosts.” This One who put His feet on the Mount of Olives, is Jehovah who is in sovereign control over everything. He is in control of the angelic world and the human world. He will control it all and He will be worshipped as God.

OBSERVATION #3 – Those who survived from various nations will go to Jerusalem to worship at the Feast of Booths. **14:16c**

This is fascinating. All nations will be required to go to Jerusalem to worship Jesus Christ and to honor Israel by participating in a key festival that emphasizes how God has blessed Israel.

Think of this. All nations of the world are there to honor God because He has blessed Israel. In Israel's history there were three required pilgrimages that Jews were to make: Passover; Pentecost and Tabernacles or Feast of Booths (Deut. 16:1-17). The one that the Gentiles will attend is the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths.

The Feast of Booths was an 8 day long Festival that began 4 days after the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:39-43). It was a festival that was designed to remember how God cared for Israel all throughout her wilderness experience.

This will be significant for the very existence of Israel is due to the sovereign care of God. This Festival will annually show Israel and the nations that God protected and preserved Israel throughout all of history. **It started when Israel left Egypt and it continued for the next 3,400 years right to this Millennium. God has been with Israel all throughout her wilderness journey and when He finally brings her to the land, this festival will remind her and the nations of that reality.**

The feast of Booths or Tabernacles will be the main festival of the Millennium for Gentile participation. This particular feast will celebrate the return of Israel to her land from exile. It will be a joyous and happy festival and all nations of the world will want to be there to participate.

One of the things that was featured at this festival was the reading of the Word of God (Ez. 3:4; Neh. 8:14-18). God's law was read and it cemented the covenant relationship that Israel had with God based on His Word. During the Millennium, Gentiles will be at this festival and they will learn from the Word of God just how important Israel was.

This is important to see because what this means is that all nations will honor Israel and the blessings God has poured out on Israel. What this feast remembers is that God delivered Israel from Egyptian captivity and led them into the wilderness and to the Promised Land.

The fact that they "will go up" indicates that they will literally ascend up Mt. Zion to the Temple area to worship Jesus Christ as King. They will do this every year.

Every year nations of the world will go to Jerusalem to honor the fact that Israel is God's special nation.

OBSERVATION #4 – Those families of the earth who do not go to Jerusalem to worship the King, who is the LORD of hosts, will have no rain on them. **14:17**

There apparently will be some who are in the Millennium, who for whatever reason, will not go up to Jerusalem. I am not sure what their excuses will be. Perhaps it will be some of the same excuses people give for not going to church. But it will cost them. If you refuse go to the worship service, you will miss out on some wonderful refreshing truth.

Now getting rain or not getting rain was clearly a blessing or punishment God promised for people obeying Him and worshipping Him or not obeying Him and worshipping Him (Deut. 31:13-14). During the Millennium, there will be normal rain and growth. There will also be the implementation of this penalty, not just for covenant Israel, but all over the world.

If someone refuses to go to Jerusalem to worship God, they will pay. God will only bless those who honor Him and Israel. That will mean attendance at the service.

If God were to withhold rain, it would prevent a great harvest in the following year. Now during the Millennium, to not go to worship Jesus Christ and honor Israel will be a sign of lack of thankfulness and disrespect and during the Millennium, Jesus Christ will not put up with that.

There are people who miss out on the blessings of God simply because they do not get in their car and drive to church.

OBSERVATION #5 – Those Egyptians who refused to go to the Feast of Booths will not receive any rain. **14:18-19**

It is clear from these two verses that one nation is singled out by name in all of this and that is Egypt. The Feast of Booths does have a specific connection to the Egyptians. According to Leviticus 23:42-43, this very festival was designed to show Israel that the Egyptians had enslaved Israel, but God delivered them from the clutches of the Egyptians.

Most people know the Exodus story of how God sent plagues against the Egyptians and then when they chased them out into the Red Sea, He brought the Sea down on them and killed them. This Festival reminds Israel of that great deliverance and it also reminds the Egyptians of what He did for Israel.

God will specifically demand that the Egyptians, who made life so miserable for Israel, come and honor her once a year. Once a year she will be required to attend a festival that reminds her how God was for Israel and not for the Egyptians. This will be a humble moment. There will be no pride here. The Egyptians will be sorry for what they did and every year they will think about it.

Egypt was a former enemy of national Israel and God will make her remember that. Apparently there will be some who will struggle with that. So God says you Egyptians need to know that if you do not go to that festival, God says, I will not send you rain.

OBSERVATION #6 – Everything in the Kingdom will be characterized by holiness. **14:20-21**

When you read these final verses in Zechariah, they are amazing. It is clear that even the most common of things will be dedicated to the Lord. There will not be a sharp distinction between that which is secular and that which is sacred.

The entire kingdom will be characterized by everything being “HOLY TO THE LORD.” Those words were originally engraved on the sacred turban worn by the high priest (Ex. 28:36). But now everything in this Kingdom will be Holy.

According to **verse 20**, even the horses will be holy. The cooking pots at the LORD’S house will be holy and the sacred bowls in front of the Altar will be Holy. In fact, **verse 21** says, “every cooking pot” in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy.

As we have said, horses will become significant during the Tribulation. Travel will be tough and will become very primitive. Horses and mules and camels and donkeys were mentioned in **verse 15**.

By including the mention of horses and pots and bowls and the temple and cooking pots in the land, what we learn is that worship life, public life and private life will all feature holiness.

Even the common things will be holy and dedicated to the Lord.

In fact, **verse 21** mentions the Canaanite as not existing. That term Canaanite represented people who were morally and spiritually unclean. These people were cursed by God (Gen. 9:25). Nothing unclean will enter here or exist (Is. 35:8; Ez. 43:7; 44:9).

There will be no unclean person in the land. Any who go to the “house of the LORD” will be clean.

The last verses of the book shows how holy the world will be. When Jesus Christ reigns on this earth there will be no more evil, sin, crime or rebellion. Everything will be holy.

In the book of Revelation, there is a verse that speaks of this. It is Revelation 21:27. Here is what the verse says: “and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

Now one question that I would certainly want to ask is this—“How do I get into this Lamb’s book of life so that I can share in this wonderful Kingdom that will be set up by Jesus Christ?”

The book of Zechariah has established the fact that there is one Person who can get you into that book and that one Person is Jesus Christ. He allowed Himself to be pierced for our sins and He said whoever believes in Me will not perish but have everlasting life.

He is the only way into the book of life. He is not a way; He is the only way. Believe on Him and one day you will live in a wonderful place ruled by a wonderful King.