



MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Zechariah 14:1-5

Plug In...

“On that day”, “the day” are phrases dotting this last chapter of Zechariah. The day is synonymous with the LORD’s deliberate activity. The LORD triggers a cascade of events prior to His arrival (v.5). First, God gathers nations to fight against Jerusalem (v.2), second, this prompts Him to go out and fight (v.3). The result, some exiled and some remain. The context of chapter 14 suggests that the ‘holy ones’ who arrive with the LORD are those saved and purified to be called ‘Holy to the LORD’ (see: 14:11, 20-21).

Chew It Over...

It is confronting to read of the future big battles. However, think through how each action of God reveals something of His character. What are those aspects? Why is it necessary for people to understand that God both judges and saves?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask for the wisdom to explain clearly and the have the ability to show others how the world is under judgement. May we be able to escalate our general conversations. Ask that we may warn of this day but love people in offering the hope that there is a way people can return to live as a 'holy one' only through the Lord Jesus Christ.



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TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Zechariah 14:6-8 & Philippians 2:12-16

Plug In...

On the same day the LORD comes back with His holy ones, cosmic changes occur. Radically, there is no winter, but rather continual sunlight. The water which flows is life giving and continues even in the dry season (i.e., summer).

This sounds like how the first creation came into being. God made the lights which governed days (Genesis 1:1-3) and from His special garden Eden, flow water (Genesis 2:10-14). It appears that the LORD returning to this ravaged world will result in a new creation, but this time with some sustained differences.

Chew It Over...

Do we long for the new creation? Can we point to where those longings emerge? Listen to how people around you speak. The more we carefully listen and ask question about what they're thinking, the more opportunity we will have to help them identify those longings for a new and better life. Sometimes, just asking people what they think about things, and why it is they think these things, helps raise to the surface the longings that are deeply embedded in what they say and do. Can you begin fostering more empathy with them in the hope of displaying further your confidence of being involved in a new creation?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask that you will be encouraged to see that the new creation way of living (being a holy one) is emerging in you each and every day.
Pray that you *sparkle* with the newness of the new creation before others.



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WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Zechariah 14:9-11 & Hebrews 10:19-25

Plug In...

These are the statements associated with the new creation depicted in Zechariah as a new Jerusalem. "The LORD will be king over the whole earth"; "Jerusalem will be raised up...it will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure."

Chew It Over...

In a world that is broken and plagued with destruction, disease, and death, this is our hope. It was Abraham's (Hebrews 11:8-10), it was Jesus' (Mark 8:31) and it is ours (Hebrews 10:19-25). It is our hope but we need encouragement to persevere in that hope. Think of a Christian brother or sister that you can deliberately set about to encourage this week with this hope as we see the day approaching.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that we take serious consideration as to how to spur someone along today, and tomorrow, and the next. May it be our *m.o.* for each day.



THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Zechariah 14:12-19 & Hebrews 12:22-24

Plug In...

The future existence for God's people is described as celebrating the Festival of Tabernacles. This was a wonderful festival that the Israelites celebrated when they first entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 16:9-12). Five days after the Day of Atonement the elders of each household would live in a tent for a week. At the end of that week they would emerge and celebrate with a big party. The party celebrated that they no longer wander, living under sin and slavery anymore. The Festival of Tabernacles fell during the month where all the summer crops and fruits could be harvested. It is such a wonderful picture of God's people now enjoying abundant prosperity as they enjoy being with God, sin has been forgiven and removed.

The emphasis here in Zechariah probably falls on the big party that is now to be celebrated because people worship the King who saved them and has dealt with all evil opposition on their behalf.

Chew It Over...

Have you ever thought of going to church as beginning to do this festival? This party? Of course we will one day celebrate it proper and eternally. Yet, going to church expresses this heavenly gathering in the local church. For the people who get this, they never consider that church is optional. When you walk into church this Sunday you will rub shoulders with the people (from all over the world) that have begun to celebrate the great Feast of Tabernacles won for us by Jesus Christ.

Prayer Suggestion

We constantly need God's help to have this attitude. Especially as this side of heaven the local church is made up of sinners who are simultaneously saints. This can make parts of church hard for us. Guess what, we're one of those sinner-saints often making it hard for others. Pray that God will transform our engagement with church from 'obligatory' to 'celebratory'. Pray that God will help us encourage one another that forgiveness of sins through Christ is the beginning (the invitation) to the party.



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FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Zechariah 14:20-21

Plug In...

One more time, Zechariah describes that *day* from another vantage point. 'Holy to the LORD' is inscribed on many things. This inscription was inscribed on the plate attached to the High Priest's turban (Exodus 28:36). The tabernacle/temple system with its priests keeps showing us how a holy God can dwell with a sinful people – only through God removing their sin. To illustrate this, just a few things were marked as 'holy'. Plus, 'the most holy place' was only a small area which could be encroached upon only once a year and then only after much sacrifice and purification.

Zechariah points to a day when the entire geography and what is within that space is described as 'holy'. The work to transform things to holy has an effect with far reach. Holiness spreads all over the place, even to every generic item within a house, within the city – to pots.

Chew It Over...

The talk of 'holiness' can be an abstract concept. We know it is something God cares about and the way He describes Himself. Yet we want to understand the implications of holiness for living life to the full. To find existence in holy-space, means all of the things from Zechariah 14 have taken place: release from enemy attack, purification (living water) from sin and evil; removal from plagues (destruction, disease, death), enjoyment of an abundant prosperous harvest (Feast of Tabernacles). Holiness from God is where satisfaction and enjoyment issue from. This should prompt us to pursue holiness even today. Just like living water flows, something of total future satisfaction and enjoyment which will be ours feeds back across even our lives today. Consider further the connection between holiness and love in 1 Peter 1:13-22. Surely the experience of love issues in concrete wonderful experiences even today.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord Jesus for ever increasing holiness. While our community would not use the word may they say, "hey there goes a *loving* girl/guy!" Pray that holiness spreads throughout the church, and onto the community.



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WEEKEND 25-26 JUNE 2016

SERIES: ZECHARIAH

Read: Revelation 21-22

Plug In...

Zechariah 14 is one of the last parts of the Old Testament storyline. Reading the final two chapters of the New Testament, Revelation 21-22, there are many connections to Zechariah 14. The Apostle John, who wrote Revelation, is clear that the finality of evil and the ushering in of the New Jerusalem (which Zechariah spoke of) has been triggered through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Prayer Suggestion

Desire the picture of Zechariah 14 and Revelation 21-22 and pray: Come Lord Jesus, come!