

Zech 12-14 A Royal “Save the Date”: The Best Invitation We Will Ever Receive

What if The Lord Jesus Christ is the most misunderstood person in your life? Especially as King

This series raises very Honest Questions: Is God worth following? If He is, why don't I follow Him closer? What would happen if I did follow & trust him? Do I not trust where He leads me? Am I keeping my distance from him for a reason?

- “Things going outside of our control”, “Losing control,” “Feeling Powerless” are often huge concerns plaguing our mind . We put heaps of time, money & motivation to keep control & often will respond/lash out at anything that threatens our kingdom. The reality of his Kingship makes us have to deal with the issue of who is it that directs, commands, controls life, my life? Who has the authority?

What makes it even harder is our understanding of King & Kingdom (although its there 2300 times)

- We envision the human elements of rulership and feel like no one individual has the right, by birth or vote or ability, to direct and oversee all people. {democratic checks and balances framework because of sin}
- We may see the kingly role as a figure-head, where we can *manage our life* without his interference. We are our own boss, and God is there to help us when its hard or make us feel good about ourselves.
- Concepts like authority, power, submission & obedience feel out of beat with us, especially in practice

*Even when it looked like evil had done its worst, Zech. Can exclaims: **The Lord remains king and will be seen as King to all.***

Week 1 & 2 Brian

- Need for Tension that exists in story, The All is lost moments, that then bring Restoration
- Zech. doesn't fit neat linear patterns (continuity-discontinuity)
- Focal Points – ***That was Then, Now, Future (Shall be). Apocalyptic and Salvation Prophecy – Future sense, Transformational Hope.*** The starting point are episodes in Israel's history, but they are conveyed with deep emotion in highly poetic language, full of allusions.
- 8 Visions - These don't come to fruition with the return from Exile (end of Ezra-Neh), so ***how do we see them realized in our lives now and in fullness with the kingdom?***
- Overview of the 8: *Promises, Protection, Judgment against enemies, (V4) Messianic Imagery of cleansing (Tide Pen) and crowning with HP Joshua (V6-7 individual/systemic sin removed), V5 Fresh infusion of vision, power with Zerr. In faith the seemingly impossible becomes possible,*

The Restoring of the temple is a restoring of us, allowing the Lord to sit and rule on the throne in us

Week 3 Parnell 7-11

- Chps. 7-8 How do we respond and for how long? Is the Kingdom coming soon? Are we going to be the type of people ready to receive and participate in the kingdom of the messiah?
- Gave similar messages to the first 8 visions, but something is stirring up
 - o *Be Strong in the Lord, God will lead as shepherd in restoration*
- Five Responses to **Restoration Process**
 - o Chp.11 Acknowledge the coming Messiah (Shepherd), don't the restorer who comes to you

Haggai/Zech. Challenged the Remnant to rebuild the Temple & Re-envision Jerusalem:

- New Jerusalem/Temple were a condition on which the dawning of the Messianic age depended, that ***the Lord would come from his temple.***
- But what the Temple was to symbolize in God's purpose the prophets could hardly expect to appreciate, for Jesus spoke of his own body as the Temple (Mk.14:58; Jn. 2:19) which in turn would

be destroyed. Raised to life *it was to be the cornerstone of a holy temple made up of living stones, believers who become a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*" (Eph.2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4,5)¹ Those outside of Israel are included in (because of grace) engrafted in Rom.11

We will see glowing pictures of what God was going to do, (which we know of) of the coming of the Messiah, to His coming again and ushering in the final kingdom.

- Read with connections of the Prophets before him (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel). It affects how you read Gospels (most quoted in passion narr. & influenced Revelation more than any other OT writer).

Chapter 12:1-6 (Will read quick and go back through) Page 798

v.1 Fresh oracle from the creator God – because this is about the accomplishment, perfection, conclusion of all things, it becomes equivalent to the act of creation

Beautiful, paradoxical mix - God will confront with power - 1) justice/judgment but also pours out 2) mercy and salvation. We learn God's kingdom will not come without great cost.

I. Metaphors of Judgment & Protection v.1-6

On that day [bayom] (7x in 12, 3x in 13, 7 times in 14):

In essence, these are prophetic "snapshots," most of which point ahead to some facet of the eschatological final "Day" when God establishes his kingdom on earth in glory² **Motivating trust**

Poetic allusions and reversals of siege and response

- v.2 Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all surrounding peoples, as the siege is against them
- v.3a Jerusalem a heavy stone, all who lift it will hurt themselves
- v.3b **All the nations of the earth will gather around it** (judgment terms)
- v.4 Striking horse & rider with panic/madness/blindness
- v.6 Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, flaming torch among sheaves
 - o Will devour all around them

God's Justice will confront evil among the nations and the people of Jerusalem/Judah. Cleansing them of the idolatry and sin

Because of these acts of Justice, there is Protection by YHWH:

v.4c *For the sake of the House of Judah I will keep my eyes open* – Sparing/Saving

- Contrast to blindness on their enemies, ***God's eyes are wide open on them***, for He sees all perfectly - *Eyes of the Lord* - 3:9 (stone with 7 eyes before Joshua); 4:10 (7 eyes of the lamp); 9:8. He is looking to discern his acts of judgment or grace

v.5d The leaders will say (to themselves) - ***The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts (angel armies), their God.***

v.6d Clans of Judah will be: *Again inhabited in its place*, Jerusalem

God will confront the rebellion of his own people, and pour out his power and grace so they can repent and grieve, and be properly established, settled

II. Read 7-9 Outcome of Salvation in the battle- The Lord will

- v.7a Give **salvation** to tents of Judah first, v.8 **Protect** the house of Jerusalem³,

¹ Baldwin, 21.

² ***It does serve to accelerate the cycle of events and to underline the importance of this future day of battle.*** Petterson, Anthony R. Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. IVP Academic, 2015.

³ Yahweh's salvation also flows directly from the military victory he is said to give to his people (9:9, 16; 10:6, 8)

- v.7a-c Why Judah first? Reading Judah as Davidic Kingdom. Glory of David's house & Jerusalem's inhabitants may not surpass Judah.
- **All the people of Yahweh be caught up in the splendor of this salvation, and all will be of equal standing before God** (Merrill 1994: 316)
- v.8 *Feeblest like David* (because he lived and was saved by God's power), *house of David like God* (Ex.4:16 Moses like God's mouthpiece functionally), like the angel of God going before them.
 - The Lord as Messiah will lead, provide, and protect them in the same way they were led before. (In Exodus and their story, Jesus as angel of the Lord)
- v.9 Reminder of God's action, He will seek to destroy the all the nations that come against Jerusalem

***** Restoration will come through the death of the king (Fill in Blank)**

Still need a new spirit and a new cleansing (Jer.31:31-37 & 32:36-41 & Ezek. 36:25-27 Read!)

- **Read v.10** *I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. [Paraphrase the rest: Mourning as great as Hadad-Rimmon in Megiddo v.11; land and all families shall mourn (House of David, Nathan, Levi, Shimeites (and wives), all families left)]*
 - Who pours out spirit of grace(favor experienced) & pleas for mercy (favor asked for)? It is a work of the *The Lord*, like water. It is one thing to have favor; it is another to capitalize on that favor by seeking it.
 - Since the House of David/people of Jerus. are still in view, and because the reference to *someone being 'pierced'* suggests the aftermath of a battle, this section should be read in close connection with 12:1-9.
 - Piercing (literally stabbing) comes at the hand of the people...they have pierced
 - The themes of the coming shoot, king and shepherd strongly suggest that **the one who is pierced is to be connected with a coming Davidic king (house of David).**⁴
 - Ch. 3 established that with the coming of Shoot, *the iniquity of the land would be removed in a single day* (3:8-9).
 - **When they look to [on] me (Lord) - their object of , whom they have pierced, they will mourn for him...** While not explicit, the implication is that those who have pierced "him" have pierced/offended Yahweh (since the king is His agent), and they are deserving of his judgment. *Yet Yahweh in his grace has restored relationship and moved them to grieve because of their sin and 'pray/request for mercy'. He has a plan.*
 - They look to the Lord in faith for change and salvation John 3 *Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.*
 - Jn. 19:37 This verse is quoted as a partial fulfillment at the cross.
 - So that they shall:
 - Mourn - (wail & grieve) depth of anguish & sorrow
 - Like mourning for an only (LXX. Beloved) child

⁴ Identifying the one who is pierced (12:10) and the shepherd who is struck (13:7) has proven elusive to many. If these passages are read as an integral part of the book of Zechariah, then the only coherent identification within the book is that they refer to the coming Davidic king, **who is killed in the coming battle by Yahweh's intent. The result is a restored covenant relationship between Yahweh and his people.** Petterson, Anthony R. *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi*. IVP Academic, 2015.

- **The new poured out spirit of repentance and desire for forgiveness drives us in our deep grief to respond deeply to the act of grace and sacrifice. This is a convicting move of God's Spirit, allowing us to turn.**
- Every person (starting with kingly & priestly lines) *by itself* responds with this genuine repentance, not because they are being influenced by others. Response on such a specific scale.
 - (Last time we responded in this way?)
 - Would earlier Isa. 53:1-9 be part of their response?
- **When will this happen? Rom. 11:25** ... I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Salvation, forgiveness and restoration are connected with the pierced one. Things are made right between God and you, you and God, you and I. Restoration.

The Impact of the Messiah Read 13:1, paraphrase the rest

On that day (3x): Whereas on that day in 12, mourning, now on that day, cleansing fountain!

- 13:1 A fountain opened (from a rock) for the house of David & Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin/uncleanliness (Joel 3:18 and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD; Ez. 36:25 sprinkle them to cleanse them)
 - First cleansing the Kingdom, Figurehead of Jerusalem, then cleansing all later in 14
 - Water normally could not cleanse them from moral sins (just make them pure to draw near to the temple and offer sacrifice to cleanse them) This fountain/spring is powerful because it is spiritual!
- The church and spiritual remnant are today the recipients of the benefits promised in the New covenant: Enablement by Spirit to obey, intimate relationship with the Lord, a saving knowledge of oneself and forgiveness of sins. (Remember vision with Joshua – Tide pen)
 - John 4:13-14 ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
- **v.2-6 Paraphrase:** Cut off the names of idols from the land, they will be remembered no more, removing prophets and spirit of uncleanness (no more false prophets) – Deut. 13 & Jeremiah influences
 - v.4-6 Prophets ashamed when they prophesy, not admitting they are prophets
 - Counterfeit prophets speaking evil and saying it is the Lord
 - Pierced in the same way the Messiah was pierced

Read 13:7-9 Resuming motif of 11 - Israel is scattered because of their rejection of the Shepherd

- v.7a *Sword, that strikes against my Shepherd/the man who stands next to me* (who dwells side by side, as my equal)
 - My shepherd = a distinct leader God has gifted,
 - Whereas before Israel pierces, here it is reflected as a sovereign act of God
 - Allowing for testing/trial which results in deeper assurance of their identity as the Lord's people (constructive)
- v.7b *Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered, hand turned against little ones*
 - Used to describe the scattering of the disciples by Jesus (Mt.26:31; Mk.14:27) Disciples functioning as a picture of the diaspora that occurred
 - Imagery/Terminology Jesus uses in John 10:11
 - Advancing to a future period of purifying?
 - v.8 2/3 cut off & perish, 1/3 left alive (always a remnant)
 - v.9 1/3 in fire refined as silver, tested as gold

Covenant Promised renewed, revisited:

- v.9d *They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'*
 - o Two sides to a Relationship - They are my, He is my. Communication & Pleas for mercy
 - o Result is what God has repeatedly promised, true identity in relationship with Him, **FULL restoration.**

Breathe: Driveway Moments (Recent Portlandia) Waiting to hear the end of the story...

The final approaching day of God's intervention and purposes: His people (intent of all nations) worship him as king in a renewed creation - all that is unholy removed.⁵ Recreation and Kingdom fully established.

[2 Peter 3:3-4](#) Scoffers will come in the last days to scoff, living according to their own desires, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have been since the beg. of creation..."

Zech 14 Behold a day is coming for the Lord (different than "On that day", a day about to come?) it has seemed like humanity's day, but this is the Lord's day, his final day when it all comes together.

- Connection/Similarity to Ezek. 38-39 (7-8, 25-29). With nation (Gog) coming to invade & attack Israel similar to the situation in Zechariah's time..
 - o ***The narrative is not chronological, which has a jarring effect on the reader***
- Zooming back across the battle (discipline) with God again saving as Divine Warrior, affecting the cosmos...⁶ It is a further perspective on the one battle that will bring in Yahweh's rule, hence this day is 'for the Lord'.
- ***The NT applies the language, images and themes of this chapter to both the first and second comings of Jesus.*** There is a 'now and not yet' perspective on its fulfilment: the 'day' has come with the Messiah Jesus and will come at his return. NT telling us it has not yet come to completion.

Recalls past images to talk about the future, but they don't have to be precise predictions (using the fall of Jerusalem from 586). Not fulfilled in future sacks on Jerusalem so must lie in the future

Read 14:1-7

- v.1 Spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst
- v.1b I will gather all nations against Jerusalem in battle (city taken, houses plundered, women raped) Intense horrific things, but part of the covenant curses/warnings
- v.2 Half of the city shall go into exile, rest not cut off from the city (has never occurred)

Final cleansing to happen over idolatry and sin – What if God is bringing things into our courts to purify us, and remove what is wrong & unnecessary from among us?

v.3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. Coming as the divine warrior to intervene and deliver (following judgment is mercy)

On that day,

- v.4 *His feet shall stand on the Mt. Olives (lies E of Jerusalem)* – Entering Holy Place from E
 - o *Jesus greatest sermon on the end occurs on this Mtn. Matt 24*

⁵ Petterson, A. R., *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi*, 287.

⁶ Chiastic from defeat to victory

- Acts 1⁹ *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,*
- v.4c **It will be a day of earth-shaking significance.** Mtn. shall split in 2 from E-W by a very wide valley (one side N, one side S)
 - Same term Split for parting of the waters at Red Sea Ex 14:21
- v.5a-b You shall flee to the valley of my mtns, and it shall reach to Azal⁷ (SE at bottom portion of the mt. of Olives) You shall flee as you fled from the Earthquake in the days of Uzziah - ***Fleeing in similar escape and salvation***

v.5d Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

- Description of advent in victory, with either angels or the people of God with him
- Mt.25:31 Jesus speaks of this *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (right before Mt.24:30-31 gathering of the elect)*
- **Rev. 19:11** *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

God has come and delivered by His Mighty power and He will still come in victory, for On that day, (v.6-7)

- No light, no cold, no frost – or heavenly bodies stop, are thickened, hence (Rev.6:12-14)
- Neither day nor night, at the evening time there shall be light
 - Absence of light with the light coming signifies a recreation of Gen. 1:5, it is an ushering of a new order
- **Unique day like no other, which is known to the Lord**

On that day, (v.8) Literal and symbolic

- Living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, ½ E Sea, ½ W Sea, in Summer/Winter (Supply is doubled - going 2 direction, and constant, never drying up)
- Gen. 2:10; Ezekiel 47 – Water from Temple in Jerusalem comes to the water in the Dead sea, becomes alive (water I can float in but can’t drink, can’t support life) **Bringing forgiveness, cleansing, restoration and healing to a guilt ridden world.**
- Rev. 22 connection – River flowing from the throne with trees on each side, 12 crops of fruit & leaves for the healing of the nations. Miracle water coming from the temple, irrigating the land on each side– Imagining it and visualizing it coming alive – you see this landscape. ***New creation imagery going on here***
- John 7 Sukkot - Feast of Tabernacles – Priest and the people take a bit of water and dump it out before the Lord. Why would they do it? Because it hasn’t rained since March. Acknowledging God is the only one who can bring the water.
 - 7:37 This is where Jesus stands up on the last & greatest day of the feast when they would pour out this water - where is he teaching. “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said (Isa. 55:1; 58:11; Ezk 47) – rivers of living water will flow from within them.

⁷ <https://www.christianforums.com/threads/you-shall-not-flee-to-azal-zechariah-14-5.8069722/>

- *How much water do you want – just a little bit??? Sprinkles, ankle deep, knee high, swimming? **New Life, Recreation – Ezk 46. Restore everything back to life giving presence.***

On that day,

v.9 ***the Lord will be king over all the earth, the Lord will be One and His name One***

[Ps. 93, 97, 99 Declare He Reigns]

- What did the angel say again about Jesus' birth : Luke 1:31-33 *The Lord will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.*
- Rev. 11:5 *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*
- Shema 6:4 God's uniqueness (the only god who is truly God) ***Instead of focusing solely on the Lord's relationship with his people Israel, Zechariah broadened this emphasis and made it universal***
 - *Hear, Listen with intent to obey/act*
 - *Lord Our God, Lord is one, Alone – not divided, not many*
 - *Love the Lord your God – with ALL – command to love is complex – giving of yourself*
- He alone is worthy of our allegiance. HE wants us to understand who he is. God wants to be the sole object of our faith, our dependence, and thus our obedience. Our obedience to his commands is to stem from an exclusive relationship with God alone, the One Lord.
 - Mt. 22:26-30 1st & Greatest Command
- By using the Shema in a verse that also speaks of Yahweh's kingship, we're reminded of Yahweh's status as the unique and singular king over all the land.
 - Center of Biblical Theology as Matt. 6:9-10 comes to its fullness, The Kingdom of God is near – here
- V.10ab *The whole land turned into a plain from Geba (10km N) to Rimmon (50km S)*
 - Hill country leveled out
 - Boundary areas of Judah from the time of Josiah-Zech.
- V.10cd *But Jerusalem will still stand aloft on its site* (dimensions from gates, towers & winepress). It will dwell in its rightful place, accomplishing its function. See chp. 3 Israel as beacon to nations
- v.11 And it shall be inhabited, for there shall ***never again be a decree of utter destruction*** (where all that is destroyed is devoted to the Lord and given as a sacrifice) ***Jerusalem shall dwell in security.***

Rewind back to the details of the Judgment/Punishment on those who wage war

Similar episodes across Israel's history

- V.12 plague, flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, eyes, tongues (v.15 plague will fall upon all animals at the war camps as well) – I recall Dawson McCallister and the Nuclear Bomb idea
- V.13 Great panic from the Lord, each will seize one another's hands/raise hand against
- V.14a Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem
- V.14b Wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected

v.16-19 Survivors who Worship the King, YHWH Sabaoth,

- Go up yearly to worship, celebrate Sukkoth. A 7-day festival of joy & thanksgiving for the harvest, God's goodness. (final of the 3 festivals gathering up all the year's worship into one). Means 'tabernacles' or 'booths' referring to the tents the Israelites lived in when they came out of Egypt (cf. Exod. 23:14-17; Lev. 23:33-43; Deut. 16:13-15; 31:9-13). Why is this 'feast' or 'festival' chosen to represent the future?
 - There are certainly new-exodus connections.

- Feast is closely associated with the temple & includes the foreigner (cf. Deut. 16:13–15).
- It spoke of the **final joyful regathering and restoration in full kingdom blessing**
- Punishment if families of the earth don't go and present themselves, no rain
- Punishment if Egypt does not, no rain and plague

The Nature of the Kingdom - Incriptions of Holiness – All things holy so all may worship

- Public Life, Bells of the horses – Holy to the Lord
- Religious Life – Priestly Pots will be like holy bowls before the altar,
- Private Life - Every pot Holy to the Lord
 - All who *sacrifice* may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them.

The plate of Gold on the high priest's turban was engraved "Holy to the Lord", because he had been specially cleansed and set apart as the sole one with access. Now because of the great High Priest, Jesus (17x in Hebrews), all are Holy to the Lord (Made right!)

Heb. 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a **high priest**, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those **high priests**, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

- No longer a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts
 - Term (naming) that represented being or spiritual unclean. No longer is there anything that makes us unclean (sacred-secular), separated from YHWH – all the things of the new earth/new Jerusalem bring us nearer
1. Know the Lord Jesus Christ deeply as your King. Ignorance leads to irreverence (not honoring or respecting the King, yielding life to Him), irreverence leads to disobedience. As you come to know Him and His will as Lord and King of your life, you will revere Him, and then you will obey Him with no hesitancy or concern for yourself. You will no longer just pick or choose what you want to obey according to your own approval but will whole heartedly follow Him in all ways.
 2. Surrender/Submission for Israel but then ALL of the world
 3. We see a king that doesn't respond to our rebellion with raw power (force), but self-sacrifice at the cross – that he is a leader you can trust, you can understand⁸. The cross was more than a salvage mission, providing salvation from the guilt & consequences of sin, it also shows us how to follow him as a safe leader, our King, who we can totally trust, rely on. The cross made it possible to see the crown – to see a complete, perfect, trustworthy leader...

Read Isa. 25:6-9

⁸ Hettinga, p.41