

[Call to Worship](#)

Welcome to worship with Feilding Baptist Church!

The verse from the eNews this week:

Romans 15:13

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If I were to learn one verse from Romans, I think this would be it.

Let's pray;

Father God, thank you for being our source of hope. Thank you for the hope we have from what Jesus has done, and what Jesus will do. As we ponder these things, thank you for the joy and peace that these actions bring. Thank you for this inspiration to worship. Holy Spirit, please overwhelm us with confident hope. Please help us to be a grateful people. Amen.

[Message - Confident hope in the King](#)

Recognising God as King is the basis for confident hope.

Rape and pillage. Not the sort of things you expect to read about in the Bible. But here, in the last chapter of Zechariah, in the first two verses, war crimes.

How would this have affected the people at the time? Well, 70 years earlier, this is what happened when Jerusalem was destroyed. The walls were torn down, the temple and all the buildings burnt to the ground. Anyone who was of any use to the Babylonians was taken back to Babyn. Many were killed. Little mercy was shown.

Forward 70 years to Zechariah's time, and it's not likely there would have been anyone alive who would have remembered those times. But, oh, they would have heard about it. And the stories would have sent shivers down their spines.

Cyrus from Persia has taken over the Babylonians, and has allowed some of the people to return home, to Jerusalem. They have begun to rebuild the temple. They're starting to recreate from the ruins, a city. But they have stopped. Discouragement has got to them. And the rebuilding has stopped.

So these words of destruction and brutality that Zechariah brings, is it past, or is it way in the future? Because there was nothing to ransack or destroy in Jerusalem at that time. It was still a ruin. What possessions were there to divide up? No one would bother attacking them in their present state. It would be pointless. It would be like pillaging a squatter community. There was nothing to take.

A day of the Lord is coming, begins verse one. And on that day, begins verse four. With this chilling beginning, let's read, from v4

Zechariah 14 (NIV - UK)
The Lord comes and reigns

1 A day of the Lord is coming...

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. 5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake[a] in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

6 On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. 7 It will be a unique day - a day known only to the Lord - with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

8 On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter.

9 The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Footnotes

Zechariah 14:5 Or 5 My mountain valley will be blocked and will extend to Azel. It will be blocked as it was blocked because of the earthquake

Zechariah 14:18 Or part, then the Lord

Zechariah 14:21 Or merchant

May God bless these words to our hearts and minds.

This is wonderful apocalyptic writing, this genre that includes visions and dreams, and much symbolic language. And that is certainly the case here. Behold a day of the Lord is coming, starts the chapter, and then the first of the 'And on that days'. Here the Lord's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, splitting it, half north, half south. Here is not history, but a message of hope. For the splitting of the Mount of Olives provides a great valley, an escape route from Jerusalem, v5. Then God will come, with the holy ones with Him.

The second 'On that day', v6, builds on this hope. Something changes with light. Neither sunlight or cold frosty darkness. A unique day, known only to the Lord. Or a unique day that only the Lord can provide, for in the evening, at sunset, when light fades, and darkness comes, light continues. There is a new light. No more darkness.

What does darkness symbolise? See the hope that is building here. On that day, the day of the Lord, God is going to do something new, something great!

'On that day', v8, the third 'on that day', living water will flow from Jerusalem. Would the people might have thought, yeah, yeah, we've heard all this before? Because Ezekiel also talked about living water coming from Jerusalem (Ezekiel 47:1-12). But Ezekiel's living water only went east. Here in Zechariah the living water goes east and west.

This is seriously good news! So much water for crops and herds. So much water for the city! For Jerusalem only had the Spring of Gihon (that becomes the Siloam brook), an inconsistent

spring that went in fits and starts, and didn't provide enough water to sustain the city. Here in this vision, in the day of the Lord, water would be plentiful, and generously supplied, in both summer and winter! What hope was this! What blessing! Here is something to look forward to. The day of the Lord will be great!

Before we head into verse nine, it's worth glancing back. Did anyone notice that in verse one, the possessions were divided (v1), in verse two, half of the people were exiled (v2), in verse four the Mount of Olives split in half (v4). There is day and night in verse seven, and in verse eight, the living waters flow, half to the east, half west (v8).

Why all the division? Why half of this, half of that?

Because God, through Zechariah, wants us to take note of v9. What do you see in v9?

Zechariah 14:9 (NIV - UK)

The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Zechariah 14:9 (NASB)

And the Lord will be King over all the earth; on that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

This is not just significant, this is massively significant!!! What happened 900 years earlier? Nine hundred years earlier the Israelites reached the promised land. There they were ruled by judges. Until they looked around they noticed that the countries around them were ruled by kings. We can't have this situation they said, we must have a king too!

And as has been said before, they did in fact have a king, they just didn't consider God as their King. This was tragic. And it didn't bode well for the people, as they whinged their way to a king, receiving for their reward, Saul. Who to be fair, did okay for a chapter or so...

So, here, we have v9, in a time to come, a return to how it was meant to be, the Lord will be King over all the earth. Not half the earth, not shared leadership, the one and only. Here we have half, half, half, then whole, whole, whole!

When do you think the Lord will become King?

Over the last five years we've done a lot of work on the Gospel. Three books that we've used a lot, Scott McKnight's - The King Jesus Gospel, and Following King Jesus Tom Wright's - How God became King.

Could it be? Five hundred years before Jesus, could it be that this strange apocalyptic writing, this prophecy, could be about Jesus?

The answer, I believe, is definitely yes! After all we've learned over the last five years, that by dying and rising again, Jesus defeated not only evil, also Satan, and death. Jesus has become King. Jesus is not in second place. This is the Gospel, this is the good news!

Hebrews 2:14-15 New Living Translation

14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had[a] the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

This is the exciting thing about the Gospel, about God's grace and mercy.

Yes, there is still evil in the world as Satan fights a rear guard action. We look forward to Jesus' return when evil will end, and light will continue forever.

So how will we live? Zechariah 14, especially v9, is the basis for hope. No, it's more than that. Recognising God as King is the basis for confident hope. This is what we can hold on to when enemies rage around us, in the unfairness of our world. We can be on the winning side.

Oh, the chapter continues, and note that there are three more 'on that days'. That's seven altogether. Guess which is in the middle, the most important one, the one we're not meant to miss. Verse nine.