

Post-Exile Prophets
WARRIOR MESSIAH
Monday, September 22
Reading: Zechariah 14:1-5

Zechariah 14:3 *Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as He fights on a day of battle.
4 On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...*

As Zechariah reaches the climax of this prophecy, he rewinds the clock and goes back to the moment the nations have surrounded Jerusalem. The situation looks hopeless for God's people. The city has been ransacked, the people abused and taken away as captives. It appears to those left in Jerusalem that all hope is lost. The enemy has won. At this desperate moment, God shows up!

The Bible often describes God as a Warrior.

"The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His name" (Exodus 15:3).

The LORD will march out like a champion, like a warrior He will stir up
His zeal; with a shout He will raise the battle cry and will triumph over
His enemies. (Isaiah 42:13)

Just when all looks lost, the Lord arrives to defeat His enemies and rescue His people. The Messiah comes followed by "all the holy ones." This term is used in both the Old and New Testament to refer to angels and to the saints. Jesus arrives with the armies of heaven and all the people who have put their trust in Him from all ages. Revelation 19 tells us that we are spectators as Jesus Messiah "judges and wages war" (19:11-16).

The circle is complete! After His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus brought His disciples to the Mount of Olives. There He ascended to heaven through the clouds while they watched. And as they continued staring up into the sky, two angels appeared and told them,

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:9-12).

Jesus' last steps on this planet were on the Mount of Olives. And when He returns "His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (14:4).

God always fulfills His promises! Jesus left this earth physically and visibly through the clouds from the Mount of Olives and He will return exactly as He left. "Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Revelation 1:7).

How are we to respond to this "blessed hope"?

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones. (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)