

Post-Exile Prophets
GOD CHANGES THINGS
Tuesday, September 23
Reading: Zechariah 14:4-10

Zechariah 14:8 *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.*

The Bible often speaks of “going up to Jerusalem.” This reminds us that Jerusalem stood in the middle of a range of taller mountains. From any direction, you had to go up to reach the city. The psalmist wrote: “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people both now and forevermore” (Psalm 125:2). The Mount of Olives lies east of the city and stands about 200-325 feet higher than Jerusalem. From its heights you could look down and get a beautiful panoramic view of the ancient city.

But when Messiah returns all this will change. First, the Mount of Olives will be split in two when Messiah steps foot on it to save His people. The ravine caused by this split will give the Jewish people who had been trapped in Jerusalem by their enemies a means of escape. This event is compared to an earthquake that occurred during the reign of King Uzziah (791-739). Though the Bible does not record this earthquake, it must have been catastrophic as the prophet Amos dates his writing to “two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah” (Amos 1:1) and now, almost 300 years later, Zechariah compares the coming of Messiah to this earthquake.

But this will not be the only change in topography. Zechariah also prophesies that the mountains will be lowered to be like “the Arabah” (14:10). The Arabah is the deep rift that extends from the Sea of Galilee down the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea. This area has the lowest elevation on the surface of the earth. The land will be leveled so Jerusalem stands as the highest place on earth. With this the prophet Isaiah agrees:

Isaiah 2:2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. (see also Micah 4:1-3)

The elevation is not the only thing that will change. Jerusalem has always had a water problem with no large local source available. But in that day, “living water will flow out from Jerusalem” (14:8). This will flow east to the Dead Sea and west to the Mediterranean Sea. The region around and south of Jerusalem is a very dry and arid place. This new river will make the land fertile

Joel 3:18 “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD’s house and will water the valley of acacias. (see also Isaiah 35:1-2)

The key to these changes is found in the words: “The LORD will be King over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and His name the only name.” Jesus will reign over the whole earth and will be the only One honored and worshiped.

When Jesus comes into your life, there should be changes! The things we thought were important should be brought down to exalt Him. He wants to give us living water to sustain and enrich us. But this can only occur when we acknowledge Him as our King and submit to His will and ways. Is that true of you?