

Post-Exile Prophets
FATE OF THE WICKED
Wednesday, September 24
Reading: Zechariah 14:6-7, 12-15

Zechariah 14:6 *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.*

I am not a fan of horror movies, especially the more current ones. The blood and guts and gore just turn me off. Zechariah's description of the fate of God's enemies will be a horror movie for them.

It begins with an eerie darkness (14:6-7). This is a common theme of the Day of the Lord.

Isaiah 13:9-11 See, the day of the LORD is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins.

Joel 2:1-2 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.

Amos 5:18 Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light.

Mark 13:24-26 “But in those days, following that distress, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

This physical darkness also pictures the condition of their hearts. Everyone who rejects Jesus and opposes God's people have no light in their lives. The only light comes from the presence of Messiah Jesus. That is why on that day there will be light in the evening, for Messiah has come to set all things right.

There are three weapons mentioned here that God will use to rescue His people. First, is PLAGUE (14:12, 15). The prophet gives a graphic description of their bodies rotting away. Second, God will use CONFUSION (14:13). God will induce a great panic on the enemy soldiers so that they will turn and attack each other. Finally, God will give His people (Judah) strength and COURAGE to fight those who attack them (14:14; see also 12:8) and they will gather large amounts of plunder. This is why “Jerusalem will be secure” (14:11), because God is bringing judgment on their enemies.

Why does the Bible talk so much about God's judgment of the wicked?

Psalms 9:15-18 The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden. The LORD is known by His acts of justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands. The wicked go down to the realm of the dead, all the nations that forget God. But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

God is not “a big meanie,” giving people what they don't deserve. He has given them all the evidence and grace they need and they still choose to forget God and live for their own sinful pleasure. This psalm also reminds us that while the wicked forget, God will never forget His people. We are confident that we will not receive God's judgment because we have placed our faith in the Lord Jesus. Rest in this hope!