

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ZECHARIAH 13-14

It was the fall of 1973, an Israeli lieutenant, Zvi Greengold, was at home on his kibbutz in the Galilee, celebrating the Jewish high holy days, with his family.

Suddenly, he heard an IDF fighter jet fly overhead.

He knew something was wrong. No missions were scheduled on the holy days. He immediately went to his army radio and discovered his beloved Israel was under a coordinated attack. Egyptian troops had crossed the Suez Canal and were rolling into the Sinai, while the Syrians were pouring into the Golan Heights.

"Zwicka" as he was called, quickly put on his uniform, and hitchhiked to the Army headquarters in the Golan Heights. When he arrived the situation was grim. The Israelis had been caught totally off-guard - a mere 188 tanks were trying to hold the high ground above the Sea of Galilee against 2000 Syrian tanks.

Zwicka took two broken down Centurion tanks, and radioed to Israelis troops on the frontline that the *Zwicka Force* was on its way. Soon he came under heavy fire, and sent his support tank back for repairs.

To survive, Zwicka left the main road and began maneuvering across the rugged and hilly countryside.

All through the night Zwicka would suddenly appear from behind a knoll, fire on the Syrians; then disappear.

Zvi Greengold's lone tank was so effective the Syrians thought they were fighting an entire tank brigade. His heroism

gave courage to the outnumbered Israelis forces, and helped them push back the enemy.

And the Zwicka Force was just one example of Israelis troops performing unprecedented feats on the battlefield that day. Many observers believe the Israelis were supernaturally empowered. Their heroism on Yom Kippur was a fulfillment of Zechariah 12:8, “The LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David.” Even the weakest fought like a brave warrior.

And this will be the case at the final battle when God destroys all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

In Zechariah 12:10 the Prophet tells us that in the midst of the final battle the Jews will realize they've made a terrible mistake. Their enemies will be led by a man they trusted to save them - a false messiah, an anti-christ. And as they pray to the Lord to help them, they'll recognize their true Messiah, Jesus Christ.

God says, “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only Son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” *And when was God pierced?* Only on the cross of Jesus. God became flesh to die in our place.

Go to Israel today, and you'll find a nation that knows how to weep, mourn, and grieve. Their national symbol is a stack of old stones called the "[Wailing Wall](#)."

Jews come to the wall to grieve over the injustices done to them, while ignoring their own sins that caused their suffering. The most heartbreaking verse in the NT is John 1:11, "[He](#) (God in the flesh, i.e. Jesus) [came to His own](#) (the Jews), [and His own did not receive Him](#)."

In the days prior to 70 AD and the destruction of the second Temple, there was a custom. On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, *a goat, the scapegoat*, was brought into the Temple, and over the head of this goat, a priest would pronounce the sins of the nation.

The goat was then released into the desert as a symbol of the removal of the people's sin. A red ribbon was attached to the goat, and when that ribbon turned white, the people knew God had forgiven their sins.

There is a passage in the Babylonian Talmud, a collection of rabbinical teachings, that states, "[Forty years before the second Temple was destroyed... the red wool did not become white!](#)" *What happened forty years prior?* The Jews rejected Jesus. This was the one unpardonable sin. God will blot out anything and everything except the rejection of His only Son.

And for the last 1900 years the Jews have carried the weight of this sin on their shoulders, and have suffered God's judgment. Yet the day will come when they'll realize their colossal mistake. They'll look on Him whom they pierced, and mourn for Him as an only Son. The Jews will embrace Jesus as their Messiah, and He in turn will return to deliver them

and be their King. In the end, **all Jews will be a Jew for Jesus.**

Which brings us to 13:1, “**In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.**”

Whenever I paint a wall, I’m tempted with a shortcut - just brush on a new coat of paint over the old paint. Yet we all know a wall first has to be sanded down and the old paint scraped off. **You prime before you paint.**

And this has to occur in a person’s heart. Rather than brush over the old paint, repentance has to come before forgiveness. I have to confess my sins - see what I've done from God's perspective - own my old habits - and provide God the willingness to change.

Repentance is like a spiritual primer. It allows my heart to accept and absorb a new coat of forgiveness.

When we grieve over what we’ve done, a fountain of cleansing opens up for us. We’re told in 1 John 1:9, “**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

And this is what all Israel will experience in the day they grieve and mourn over what they did to Jesus.

Today, at the Wailing Wall there is a fountain where you wash your hands before you approach the wall. The Jews cleanse themselves so they can mourn.

But they have it backwards. God’s cleansing comes after mourning over our sins and heartfelt repentance.

And where is this fountain that Zechariah mentions?

We find it in John 19:34. As Jesus hung from the cross, John tells us, "One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out." Later in verses 36-37 John adds, "For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled... 'They shall look on Him whom they pierced.'"

A cleansing fountain opened up from Jesus' side.

Now anyone interested in God's forgiveness must repent of their sin and come to Jesus to be cleansed.

William Cowper wrote, "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day; and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away... Ever since by faith I saw the stream, Thy flowing wounds supply, redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die." Redeeming love will one day be the theme of the Jews who come to Jesus.

Verse 2, "It shall be in that day," says the Lord of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered.

I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land." God's cleansing in Israel will be on display in two ways. First, is the elimination of idolatry. Second, is a zero tolerance for false prophets.

*"Cutting off the names of the idols"* is the equivalent of their complete destruction. Not just the idol itself, but its reputation - even its memory, will be obliterated.

This is indicative of God's cleansing power in our lives. He not only forgives our sin, but takes away the shame it caused - even its painful and haunting memories. It's amazing that after you bask in God's grace for several years you can forget sin's aftertaste.

You no longer remember what it was even like.

*"It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the Lord.' And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies."* Love of God's Word - respect for God's name - will transcend family loyalties. God will be more important to people than their own kid. So that a parent will shut the mouth of a child who misrepresents God.

Recall Numbers 25, Israel sinned with the Midianites. The Hebrew husbands committed adultery and idolatry with Midianite women. Their sin was open and brazen. As a result God brought a plague on His people.

In fact, one of the rebels flaunted his adulterous date to mock Moses. He brought the woman to the door of the Tabernacle. That's when one of the priests named *"Phineas,"* had all he could take of the blasphemy.

He grabbed a javelin, followed the couple into their tent, and stabbed them like a shish-kabob. It was the wake-up call Israel needed. God ended His plague.

The episode was a lesson in the danger of tolerance. No one was willing to confront the idolater until Phineas grabbed his lance. And this is a lesson for us.

Today, the one value modern society prizes highest is tolerance. Our pluralistic culture tolerates anything and everything except biblical orthodoxy. In the world, we should stand for the truth, even while tolerating the perversions around us - but not so in the church. In God's camp we should insist on truth and faithfulness.

It's hard to have *a zero-tolerance attitude in a total-tolerance world* - yet the truth can't be compromised.

Phineas cleaned house with a spear. Our weapon is not a literal lance - it's sharper - it's the sword of the Spirit, or the Word of God. Unsheathe it on idolatry and immorality whenever it seeps into God's house.

Verse 4, **“And it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse hair to deceive.”** This is a reference to the prophet Elijah. He wore a mantle, or robe, made of coarse camel's skin.

Just before he was taken to heaven he passed his mantle on to his successor, Elisha. A camel's skin coat became a symbol of God's prophet. His business card.

In fact, tradition says that one of the reasons the Jews went out to the Jordan to see John the Baptist was that he came wearing the mantle of Elijah.

Apparently, false prophets in Zechariah's day feigned a prophet's authority by wearing the official uniform. They wore the robe and dressed the part. But when Jesus returns this

stops. The false prophets will be afraid to continue the ruse. It'll no longer be tolerated.

“But he will say, ‘I am no prophet, I am a farmer; for a man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.’” The presence of Jesus on earth will suppress the claims of the false prophets. They'll admit they're farmers, not prophets. Folks will no longer be something they're not.

“And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will answer, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’”

According to Deuteronomy 13:10 the penalty for blasphemy was stoning. When a person was stoned they put their arms over their face for protection. This meant the false prophet would have scars on his arms.

Here the false prophet says he was wounded in the house of his friends... This verse is often viewed as prophetic of Jesus. He was wounded after being sentenced by the Jews. One day, future Jews will see Jesus' scars, and ask Him, *“Where did you get them?”*

Our Lord will respond, *“In the house of My friends.”*

Though verse 6 might typify Jesus, realize it actually speaks of the false prophet. It's verse 7, not verse 6, that prophesies of our Lord Jesus, *“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion,”* says the Lord of hosts. *“Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones.”* Notice the Lord of hosts speaks of *“the Man who is God's Companion.”*

In the 1950s the New York Yankees dominated professional baseball. The Bronx Bombers had a line-up full of flashy superstars - Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Mickey Mantle. But the workhorse on the team was a unlikely star - a short, squatty, awkward looking catcher, who was tough-as-nails, Yogi Berra.

The Yankee manager, Casey Stengel, was once approached by a reporter who asked him the secret of his amazing success. Casey responded, "I never start a game without *'my man.'*" At first the reporter didn't know who he was talking about, but after some thought he realized that Stengel's "man" was Yogi Berra.

Berra was like a coach on the field. He was an extension of His manger. Casey never entered a game without Berra either catching, or at first base, or in left field. Yogi Berra was the heart and soul of the Yankees.

And here the Lord of Hosts speaks of *His Man* - "*the Man who is My Companion.*" The Hebrew word "*Companion*" means "*peer or equal, a close associate.*"

God never starts a game without Jesus somewhere in the line-up. The Son of God *has always* and *will always* be involved in all the Father does. Jesus is the heart and soul of God's plan. **Jesus is the Man!**

Yet verse 7 identifies a strange role for God's Man.

God's Man is His equal. He's the Shepherd of His people. Yet He'll be struck like a false prophet.

Here, God Himself gives the command, *“Strike the Shepherd...”* Remember Isaiah 53 says of God’s Man, the Messiah, *“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him.”*

Here’s the same idea, it pleased God to strike His Main Man, *“the Shepherd.”* *Why? In doing so He could save you and me.* We could ponder that truth for a million years and never fully appreciate God’s love.

Remember in John 10, shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus referred to Himself as *“the Good Shepherd.”*

Even more amazing, on that fateful night, Jesus had been meditating on this passage in Zechariah. In Matthew 26:31 Jesus explains to His disciples that they will deny Him and abandon Him. He says, *“All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”* Jesus quotes Zechariah.

And it wasn’t just the disciples who were scattered.

The death of God’s Shepherd caused all of Israel to be scattered across the earth for the last 1900 years.

Verse 8, *“And it shall come to pass in all the land,”* says the Lord, *“that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it...”* God’s judgment of Israel began with their **scattering**, but it culminates with their **slaughter**. Several times in Jewish history we’ve come close to the fulfillment of this prophecy.

During the Roman invasion of 70 AD thousands of Jews fell to the Romans... At the end of the Middle Ages countless *“Jewish purges”* reduced the population of world Jewry to

around one million... Hitler systematically exterminated six million Jews - at the time, about one-third of the world's Jewish population.

Yet despite these horrors, the worst Holocaust is still on the horizon. In Revelation 12 we're told that at the midpoint of the Great Tribulation Satan will be kicked out of heaven. He'll be mad at God and retaliate by targeting God's children, the Jews. The armies of the Antichrist will pour into Israel like a flood. Millions and Jews will be slaughtered. Today, the world's Jewish population is 14.4 million, 6.3 million Jews live in Israel.

Imagine, if this future Holocaust occurred today 9.6 million Jews would perish. That's 3.3 million more than Hitler killed in his Holocaust. It'll be devastating.

Verse 9 tells us what happens to the third of world Jewry that ends up saved, "I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

The final seven years of God's judgment, or what we call *the Great Tribulation*, has a two-fold purpose - **to punish the world**, but **to purify the Jews**. It's through these horrible sufferings that God will refocus the Jews. They'll turn from Anti-christ to Jesus Christ.

Chapter 14, "**Behold, the day of the Lord is coming...**" Today is *the day of man*. Man is having his way, getting his say. But

*the day of the Lord* is coming, when God will shut-up mankind, and have His way.

When you argue with a skeptic, or debate an atheist, always remember God will end up with the last word.

“Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

In Chapter 12 Zechariah told us that God will make “Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples.” Everyone who tries to heave it away will be cut by it. Jerusalem will be a stumbling stone for the nations.

Here we’re told the armies of all the nations of the world - a global coalition - will coordinate an invasion of Jerusalem. These armies will be counting their spoils, taking inventory of their treasures, when suddenly...

“Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.” Our Lord Jesus Christ will intervene and fight on behalf of Israel.

In 2 Thessalonians Paul says Jesus will be revealed from heaven “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...” And of the Antichrist Paul writes, “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming...” When Jesus

fighters the nations it won't be much of a contest. He'll consume them *with a breath and a shimmer of His brightness*.

“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

Recall after His first visit to earth, Jesus departed for heaven from the top of the Mount of Olives. We're told, Acts 1:10, “(As the disciples) looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’” The very spot where *He lifts off*, is where *He touches down*.

Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives, and it's there that Zechariah tells us the living Lord will return.

He'll set his foot on the mountain and it'll split in two, radically altering the topography of today's Jerusalem.

Have you ever wondered what size shoe Jesus wears? No one knows, but when He returns - *when God's Main Man puts His foot down* - He'll really put His foot down! The Mount of Olives will crumble under the weight of Jesus' big toe. As soon as He plants His sandal the mountain will split in two, from east to west.

Its interesting that before the Six Day War of 1967, Jordan decided to build a hotel on the Mount of Olives.

They were going to build it directly across from the east gate, but when they did their seismic studies they discovered a fault running through the Mount of Olives from east to west. A major fault runs north to south, along the Jordan Rift, but the geologists discovered a hairline fault running east to west through Mount Olivet.

They built their hotel, but not according to the original plan. They moved it south, away from the fault. Today, this Arab hotel, the Seven Arches, sits on the Mount of Olives. But it's construction proved that the mountain's geology is unstable. It's awaiting the pressure of one foot, the foot of Jesus, and then it'll split wide open.

**“Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You.”** The seismic upheaval this earthquake causes cuts an unexpected valley in the mountain that allows an escape route for the Jews.

**“It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish. It shall be one day which is known to the Lord - neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.”** Some kind of cataclysmic event will cause confusion.

Perhaps the earth gets knocked off its axis. The sun gets blacked out in the daytime, and shines at night.

Or it could be an eclipse - or an explosion of debris that creates a cloud and blocks out the sun for a time.

“And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.” This was the river we saw in Ezekiel 47 that bubbled up next to the altar.

It flows from Jerusalem eastward and westward, and forms an inland waterway. “The port of Jerusalem” sounds strange to say, but that’s the city’s destiny.

This river will connect Jerusalem westward with the Mediterranean, and eastward with the Dead Sea.

Verse 9, “And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.” Isn’t this what we’ve been waiting on. Jesus told us to pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Now our prayer is answered.

One day Jesus will be *“King over all the earth.”*

And “In that day it shall be - “The Lord is one,” and His name one. Perhaps it’s by this future river spoken of in verse 8, that Jesus will be crowned King of kings. In the Jewish book, the Mishnah Torah, it states that all the heirs of David were anointed king next to a stream.

The running water was a symbol of the promise God made to David that He would never be without a descendant on His throne. Like a continually-flowing river His kingdom will never end. As the angel said to Mary, “The Lord will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

While we're on the subject of the Messiah's crowning, the King in Israel was always anointed with a special oil. It came from the sap of the Persimmon or Balsam tree. Ancient documents testify that when you put the oil in water it turned the solution milky white.

When the Romans invaded Israel in 70 AD the Jews destroyed the remaining balsam groves. The Jewish rabbis thought this anointing oil no longer existed.

Then in 1987, Gary Collett and Nathan Meyers, found a clay flask in a cave near the Dead Sea. It was in a small container buried in a hole three feet deep. Tests confirmed that it was bottled at the time of Jesus, and when mixed with water it did turn a milky white.

Today, the discovery has been turned over to Israel's Chief Rabbis who plan to use the oil to anoint Messiah when He comes. Its interesting, God has already prepared the anointing oil for His Son's coronation.

Verse 10, **“All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses.”** The biblical descriptions of the city of Jerusalem during the thousand year reign of Christ, *and the huge crowds it will accommodate*, require a city much larger than the current Old City.

Apparently, the earthquake accompanying the return of Jesus will help expand Jerusalem's dimensions.

The quake will create a plain or plateau from Geba, six miles northeast of Jerusalem - to Rimmon, 33 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The city will be much bigger!

Verse 11, **“The people shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.”** When Jesus returns to Jerusalem, the city finally lives up to its name, **“the city of peace.”**

**“And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem...”**

The nations that attack Jerusalem will be punished in three ways - with **a plague, a panic, and a plunder...**

First, he mentions **a plague**. **“Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.”** In the book **“Hiroshima”** author John Hersey describes the aftermath of the atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese island.

The people who weren't killed in the initial blast, died far more horrible deaths as a result of the radiation.

Hersey writes, **“Faces where wholly burned, eye sockets were hollow, fluid from melted eyes ran down cheeks, mouths were mere swollen, pus-covered wounds.”** The severe human suffering was nauseating.

It's interesting, the similarities between Zechariah and John Hersey's descriptions. It's possible, if not probable in my mind, that Zechariah is here describing the radiation released from a future nuclear bomb.

We know for many years Israel has possessed nuclear capabilities. We also know they've warned that they'll use their weapons if sufficiently threatened.

There's little doubt, Israel won't hesitate to use nuclear weapons if her survival was ever at stake.

In the past, Israel was said to have a "Masada mentality" - like the Jews who fled to Masada in the wake of the Roman invasion of Jerusalem, they vowed to never surrender. But today, Israel is said to have a "Samson mentality." Remember, when Samson pulled down the pillars of the pagan temple, the Philistines died with him... And if the Israelis think their going to be wiped out, they'll take a few nations with them.

But along with the plague, God will bring **a panic** on the people who attack Jerusalem. "It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand; Judah also will fight at Jerusalem."

God will confuse the attacking armies. They'll turn on each other, and their troops will die from friendly fire.

"And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance. Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule, on the camel and the donkey, and on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be." Israel will divide **plunder** from the nations when God finishes off those who attacked Jerusalem.

The last few verses of Zechariah, describe what life will be like when Jesus establishes His Kingdom on the Earth. Jesus will rule from His Temple in Jerusalem.

Verse 16, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” Recall, one-third of the Jews will survive the tumultuous time called the Great Tribulation.

Apparently, there will also be Gentile survivors.

Along with the Jews, people from among the nations will also repent and trust in Jesus. All these survivors will begin to repopulate the planet that Jesus rules.

From the nations that attacked Jerusalem, there now will be people who come to Jerusalem to worship. They’ll bow before God’s Main Man - the true Messiah.

And notice, they’ll come annually, in the fall of the year, for the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. This is the week where Jewish families live in a make-shift hut in their back yard, under the stars, to remember what it was like to wander in the wilderness for forty years.

In the Millennium they’ll remember their wanderings for all of 2000 years, and celebrate God’s faithfulness.

It’s interesting that Tabernacles has always been the one feast where Gentiles were invited to join the Jews in their celebration. Perhaps this was anticipatory of the role that Gentiles will play in the future Kingdom.

“And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.”

Apparently, an annual pilgrimage will be mandatory. The communities that neglect to come to Jerusalem for the official feast will be punished with a drought.

This should teach us a lesson. It's interesting that the neglect of worship is considered by the King to be a punishable offense. I'm not sure we all understand the importance God places on our corporate worship.

Most Christians today come to church only when they don't have a more pressing priority - *when Junior doesn't have a ball game, or it's too rainy to head to the lake.* In the Kingdom Age, God will punish people who neglect the appointed times of worship. Today, as the Church, we need to prioritize our public worship.

Verse 18, “If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” *The question arises, why does God single out Egypt for not observing the feast?* Remember, the Feast of Tabernacles is about God's deliverance of His people, Israel, from Egypt.

If anyone had a reason NOT to celebrate Israel's exodus from Egypt, it would be the Egyptians. *Israel's victory was*

*Egypt's defeat.* Yet even the Egyptians should put the praise of God above national interests.

“In that day “**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**” shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar.”

Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them.” As we mentioned today’s chief value is **tolerance**. Whereas, in the Kingdom Age the emphasis will be on **holiness**.

Everything will be dedicated to the Lord. Holiness will be written everywhere. Go to the stables and look at the bells the horses wear - they carry the inscription, “*holiness to the LORD.*” Go to the Temple and examine the vessels, you’ll find the same inscription, “*holiness.*”

Gone are the distinctions between *secular* and *sacred*. Everything is dedicated and set apart for God.

*Is the same true in your life? Or is there one life you live for God and another life you live for yourself?*

“In that day there shall no longer be a **Canaanite** in the house of the Lord of hosts.” In Zechariah's day the term “**Canaanite**” was synonymous with an idolater.

When Jesus reigns there'll be no such thing as an idolater, or an atheist, or even an agnostic. In that day, no one will question the existence and power of God.

Let me close with a question... *The motto of the coming Kingdom is holiness to the Lord - well, is that your motto?*  
May we all desire to live a holy life!