Israel is being prepared for the return of the Messiah

**1. The Lord prepares His people for His return. Zech 14: 1-5-(read)**

v-1 says "A day of the Lord"--(the article A should be The-in the Hebrew it reads "Day of YHWH"--in other words it's not one of the days of the Lord it is The Day of the Lord--

it's noted in

**Romans 11:26** that all Israel will be saved, it says "The Deliverer will come from ion, he will turn godlessness away from Jacob, and this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins"

--The Day of the Lord begins with the **Tribulation Period** and lasts until the Lord returns for His people seven years latter.= (it doesn't necessarily begin with the Rapture)-

(by the way if you want to evaluate the position of a teacher, ask him to interpret this passage--and it will reveal volumes regarding his theological stance.)-

**v-2- says** “I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it”

–and when the Lord gave Ezekial **a vision of His return to earth in Ezekial 11:17** -He said, “I will gather you from the nations and =bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered –**and I will give you back the land of Israel again”**

**-(note-**what's the purpose of the re-gathering?-- to give the land to Israel--when -at the return of the Lord---(it hasn't been completed yet-- but it's in the process-)

–(so we see what the Lord is **doing—He scatters the people in AD 70** because they rejected Him— and that was because of the **prophecy in Lev 26:33 & 34**-where the Lord said He would **scatter them into the land of their enemies** and their own land would be laid waste and in ruins– and it would rest-and enjoy the Sabbath rests all the time it lies **desolate-because the Jews did not did give the land it’s Sabbaticals** –the rest every 7th year.)-

They disobeyed God’s Word-

--(the purpose of the Sabbath Day and the Sabbaticals every 7th year – was not to relax and watch T.V.– it was to rest from the routine of work-in other words=to take one day of the week and change our focus to the Lord and honor Him.–This was not to be another day for man–(remember man’s number is 6– six days were to be for Him– but the Lord is to be given the 7th **day–we are not to take that day for ourselves–because then we would have all 7 days– and the Lord would have none!!!)-**

**So the Lord gives them a promise–**

**Lev 26: 40-42-** that if they would confess their sins - and return to Him and pay for their sins-then He will remember the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-and will give them the promised land”

**Zechariah 14:3–notice** “then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations”

-(so lets get the picture–He scatters the Jews into the land of their enemies because they didn’t obey Him–and He lets the land rest for almost 2,000 years– and then He brings them back into their land– to get prepared for His return and giving them all their promised land that He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob–

=**=but-**

**1st-** He is going to bring all these nations against her in war– and if she **confesses** her sins- and turns to Him– He then will fight all these nations Himself- and return to His people-

-(so the purpose of bringing all these nations against Israel is to make her confess her sins -namely, that of killing the Messiah,--and then recognizing Him and turning to Him)-

**v-4-& 5 says** “On that day His feet will stand on the Mt. Of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and it will split in two- from the east to the west, forming a great valley- which will provide an escape for the Jews”-

-(on that Day--remember-this is the Day of the Lord--the Tribulation Period--and we see Jesus standing on the Mt. of Olives-- so we know that this is the climax of the period-the end of the 7 years.)-

--(the Mt. of Olives is the **highest point** in the region–it **over looks Mt. Moriah**- where the temple used to sit–===now this was the where the Lord departed into heaven at the Ascension---- **and so this is where He will return –**

==(it says this is **East of Jerusalem**— and we’re aware that when the Spirit of the Lord departed from the Temple - in **Ezekial 11:22, 23**–He **departed to the East**- and when He returns– **Ezekial 43: 2, 4** tells us **He will return from the East-)**

**\_(He is very specific** He didn't have to tell us from where He would come-but He wants us to know how precise His Word is--He details even the smallest things to let us know that we can depend fully on His Word.)

**But we’re also told that His place is in the north–**

**Job 26:7- says** “He spread out the northern skies over empty space and He suspends the earth over nothing”

**ie–Time Magazine** has a section it devotes to science –and **in 1991** they printed an article about the discovery of what they called **“the Great Walls of Outer Space”**

==it was made up of nothing but light– and it was so big–it was beyond our comprehension-=

–now remember that light travels at 186,000 miles per second–

they discovered that this light in space was 500,000,000 miles long-

 “ 250,000,000 miles wide

 **“ 15,000,000 miles high**

**-Nobody could explain what this is–but could it be -the place of the Lord?!**

**Job says** “He spread out the northern skies over empty space”--

**Jesus said He was the Light of the World**– and in the new city of Jerusalem when eternity starts– it says “ He will light up the city–and we will have no need for sun or moon”

**Zechariah 14:5- says** “then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him”

-(that’s us – we’re coming with Him– we’re following Him-

-and just preceding this mighty return to earth-- the Lord sends His angels to gather His elect (the Jews)-from the four corners of the earth.=

 **Jesus returns to the earth. Rev 19: 11-16-(read)-**

**Notice -He is riding a White Horse--**

--The General always rode at the head of his troops and always rode on a white horse-

**v-14-**indicates that the armies of heaven are following Him--and notice their apparel-

-fine linen-white & clean- **this is the Church (of course)- coming back with Him-**

(1 Thess 3: 13; 4:14)

-The angels will also be in this procession--Mt 16:27: Mk 8:38.

**v-15**-The sharp sword is symbolized as the Word of God---which the Lord will use to judge men’s hearts---Here it is used as an instrument of war-to bring all the nations under His authority--

= “He will rule them with a scepter and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath

of Almighty God"

**-(these passages all point to the sad conclusion that in the day of judgment it is too late for men to expect the mercy of God**==There is **nothing more inflexible** than divine judgment where Grace has been spurned !!---(This scene is in total contradiction that God is dominated entirely by His attribute of Love--and one day will look the other way)

And so Jesus now will bring the Jews into their promised land as noted in Matt 25:31

-where we see the judgment of the sheep (Israel) and the goats(the lost)-and this will decides who enters the Millennial period -(the last 1000 years of the earth)-

and **that will complete the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob– that the Lord made concerning giving the promised land to them.**

--(this will take place at the Valley of Jehoshaphat -according to Joel 3:2 and 3:12.

--(the valley of Jehoshaphat will be where the Mt. of Olives is split in two -due to the great earth quake that takes place in the Trib Per-(Rev 16)-

–and Jesus will reign for 1000 years–and we will be actively participating in ruling with Him--

Zech 14:6-7 says " On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime — a day known to the Lord. When evening comes, there will be light. .It will be a day of darkness, but in the evening, daylight will return==(It will be a Day of Remembrance.)-

**v-8-Zech 14:8 says** "On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter."

Israel has a 'fault line' running through the Mt. of Olives (that could be the physical reason it splits in half--but the seismologists have said there is a massive amount of water that would break through if an earthquake were sever enough. )

==and here it says "living water will flow from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea"

Living Water indicates 'purification'--indicative of spiritual life and refreshment but also the restoration of the people and the land.--It also indicates that Jerusalem will be the center of spiritual blessings of the whole earth.

-Ezekiel 47 says that wherever this new river flows there will be healing--

**v-9 Zech 14:9 says** " The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name."

-There will be One Lord not only of Jerusalem-- but of the whole earth--and He alone will be worshipped .

**Zech 14:12-15 says "** This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected — great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps."

Here again we go back and describe the details after we have received the ending of the events--(so this is obviously describing nuclear warfare--and it's results )\_

 **Zech 14:16-21 says "** Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain. If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. On that day HOLY TO THE Lord will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord Almighty."

**v-16-notice** every year the nations will go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles---(which feast stands for 'God's provisions for the nation of Israel while they were in the desert)- It also is indicative of the whole Millennial period- because the Lord is with the people making provision for them.)-

Notice also that those nations who don't go up to take part in it-- will have no rain and the Lord will punish them with a plague-

(Egypt is mentioned first -because it always represented worldliness in the O.T.-in which it represents disobedience here)-

**v-21**--everything will be sanctified-- all will be holy.

-(Zechariah here tells us everything is set to begin the Tribulation Period.)