

The Glory of the Cross (The Present Spiritual Realities of Zechariah 14)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

The sermon emphasizes the importance of knowing Jesus and experiencing the power of His resurrection, and highlights the significance of Calvary as the throne of God and the new and living way to God.

Scripture: Zechariah 14:4, Zechariah 14:8

Topics: "The Cross", "The Reign of Christ"

Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the transformative power of the cross, portraying it as the throne of God from which victory over death is proclaimed. He explains that Jesus' sacrifice opened a new way for believers to be reconciled with God, allowing His reign to manifest in their hearts rather than in an external kingdom. Waldvogel urges the congregation to recognize Jesus as the King of their lives, stressing that true salvation comes from accepting His lordship and living in accordance with His teachings. He warns against the dangers of false doctrines and the complacency of sin, calling for a deeper understanding of the Gospel and a commitment to live fully for God. Ultimately, he highlights that the cross is not just a historical event but a present reality that empowers believers to experience the fullness of life in Christ.

Transcript

Selected Verses:

Zechariah 14:4,8-9. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 8And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

Hebrews 10:19-20. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.

Opening:

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley... And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."

I'm glad that God is leading us to Calvary, and giving us more and more a revelation and a sight of what Calvary means. Calvary is the throne of the Almighty God. The cross which was meant to be a tree of shame on which the Son of God died became the throne of the universe from which all His enemies received their death stroke, thank God. He "swallowed up death in victory" on Calvary's cross. How very wonderful it was when Jesus stood before Pilate and He said, "I am a King." Pilate thought he was somebody. Jesus said, "You're nobody. I am a King." Oh, what a King is Jesus! But the Jews, the Israelites, didn't understand anymore than the Judaizing Christians understand today. They're still looking for an exterior kingdom. You'll never know the kingdom of God until Jesus reigns in your heart.

His heart had to bleed so that a way might be opened for you and for me to be united to God, to be reconciled to God. The Bible says He has opened "a new and a living Way," by His own blood "which he hath consecrated for us," whereby "we draw nigh to God." And when Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple was rent from top to bottom. There was the valley. There was the mountain that was between us and God. And it was removed, and there was a great valley, and a great way. And living waters issued forth from the heart of Jesus because that is the heart of Almighty God.

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Selected Quotes:

Everywhere the life of Jesus was with me. Everywhere Jesus Christ was on the throne of my heart. And He's here this morning. And unless you receive Him as the King of your heart, you'll never know Him, you'll never know salvation. That's salvation, when we can say, "King of my life!"--when He becomes a King, not in the meeting alone, but in the kitchen, and in the workshop. Upon every step of the way, when Jesus Christ really reigns, that's what He died for: that you and I might "live unto God," praise God! And if you and I don't "live unto God," then "Christ is dead in vain." And if we accept His Gospel, and then commit sin, we "crucify the Son of God afresh." And that's what Christianity is doing every day, today--ignorantly, yes. We've been doing it too. But, thank God, He is leading us to know this living and this true Way, praise God!

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When His feet, His nail-piercèd feet, stood on the Mount of Olives, there God stood. And He proclaimed His victory, and He raised his nail-piercèd hands in sight of His disciples and He said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth... Go into all the world, and proclaim this Gospel... And he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;... And these signs shall follow them that believe." And then He was lifted up and that's how the Father saw Him, Hallelujah!

He saw me in those graven hands, those pierced hands. Hallelujah! And Jesus took me and you right into the Holiest of All and said, "Now, Father, I'm not coming alone. I will that they also whom Thou has given Me be with Me. That's what I shed My blood for, Father."

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We've got to get acquainted with the Gospel as it is, and with Calvary for what it stands for. Oh, it stands for death and destruction of all that is of the devil, and the flesh, and the world. Praise God! When I "believe in my heart that God has raised Him from the dead," I cut myself off from Adam the first, and I become united to Adam the Second.

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Anybody that wants to be saved is not going to ask, "What form of baptism?" But he's going to obey God, and he's going to accept the counsel of God against himself, and he's going to be associated with the risen Christ. And that's what the baptism in the name of Jesus stands for, thank God!

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The devil has somehow succeeded to fill the world with false doctrines. Even in Christianity, what are the churches preaching today? What are the preachers preaching today? Why don't they preach the simple truth that "whosoever believeth in Him shall have everlasting life," praise God! Why don't they say, "Repent and be baptized and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," praise God!

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Oh, thank God: "His feet..." "His feet did stand upon the mount of Olives." Some people say that's going to be fulfilled. Beloved, this has been fulfilled in all its fullness. It's being fulfilled today in all its power, in all its fullness. And unless you get hold of it, you're looking into the future in vain for some manifestation of Jesus Christ on the mount of Olives. He has stood there, and the mountain has cleft in two, thank God! It's gone! It's out of the way! And Christ comes forth today; and whosoever will may come and take.

Oh, we've got to find out Jesus. Paul, they bothered him from every direction. They came around with their Judaizing doctrines, and old wives fables. He says, "Get away. I made up my mind not to know anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I don't want your faith to stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God." Hallelujah! And "what eye hath not seen, and ear hath not heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man," God's got ready for those who love Him: "God has revealed it to us by His spirit." And in vain do you go and try to explain it to sophisticated heads. They'll never swallow it, they'll never get hold of it. God "has hidden this thing from the wise and prudent." But listen, is the crucified your King today?

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What was the intention of the Father when He gave His Son for me? Why, the intention of the Father was to make out of me a son of God, and out of you too--not to fill the churches with hypocrites, not to give us a crippled, half-hearted Christian experience, but to fill us with "all the fulness of God." And we can only get it at Calvary. He says, "If you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man--" That's where the fountain broke open: on Calvary.

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Oh, I come. By this "new and living Way" we have "access with confidence by the faith of Him." Let us therefore "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." Let us draw near. Beloved, we hang around on the outside. I wonder how many people in this meeting are satisfied to still be infested with sin.

Many are, I know that. And they're satisfied that it cannot be otherwise. You don't let Jesus reign.

He is King, hallelujah! And He had to die in order to "condemn sin in the flesh." That was the greatest act of the only King that was ever crowned: the Lord Jesus Christ. And when He died on the cross, He did not die as one that was conquered. He was not conquered. The Bible tells us that when He died, He cried with an exceeding cry. It was a cry of victory that shook the bottom of hell and burst the rocks, praise God! and put the finish to the reign of the devil, hallelujah! He said, "It is finished!" It was the cry of a Victor, a cry of Almighty God that finished it. But Jesus finished it outside the camp. And He says, "You can have your old temple. You can have your Jerusalem. You can have your idol worship. You can have your sin. You can have your flesh. You can have it all. But if you want Me, you'll have to take My blood--you'll have to take My death, My resurrection." You cannot come to Jesus and not be cleansed from your sin. You can't. That gate is wicket, and it's narrow. And when you come to Jesus, you come because you want to be cleansed.

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There will not be a resurrection from the dead until we "count everything but refuse for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord," until we indeed forsake "the things that are behind," and "press toward the mark," and cry, "That I might know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering," that I might be "made conformable unto His death." That's what the Holy Ghost works.

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speaker icon "I made up my mind not to know anything but Jesus Christ and Him crucified." And they kicked him out. All in Asia turned away from Paul. They didn't like him... He had nothing to say but Jesus... He kept telling them, "Get down! GET! DOWN! Humble yourselves! Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus! Let every one of you think the other better than himself!" They didn't like that.

Nobody likes it today either. A woman right in this assembly, she came to me, she says, "I hate to be told to get down all the time. I want to be somebody." Well, she was one honest soul. I hope she'll wear a crown.

Illustrations:

Stories of manifestations of the Spirit during HRW's trip to Egypt: "Everywhere where people believe in their hearts, Jesus manifests Himself. He manifests His resurrection life and power... Here was the stream of life flowing into Egypt that, 'whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.'" (at 12:47)

Source:

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