

A Front Row Seat
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Zech 14:4a

(BHS)

וְעָמְדוּ רַגְלָיו בַּיּוֹם־הַהוּא
עַל־הַר הַזֵּיתִים
אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם מִקְדָּם
וְנִבְקַע הַר הַזֵּיתִים מִתְצִיּוֹ
מִזְרָחָה וְיָמָה גֵּיא גְדוֹלָה מֵאֲדָם

(NCV)

On that day he will stand
on the Mount of Olives,
east of Jerusalem.
The Mount of Olives will split in two,
forming a deep valley that runs east and west.

Line 5's "west" is of course, "toward the sea" (using a locative ה). Line 1 needs some explanation. NCV gives the sense, but the second word there is "feet," "And his feet will stand." It is a prophecy about Yahweh. God's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, crack it open, and from there judge the world and exalt his people. There is a Jewish tradition that all Jewish corpses will be carried by underground tunnels to there, and there they will be resurrected.

When I was there, I visited the so-called Tomb of David. It is not where he is actually buried (which is unknown), but where he is remembered. A Jew was praying, facing the corner, next to a coffin-like box with a cloth draped over it. The cloth had words on it.



Here is a close-up of its inscription→
It says, דוד מלך ישראל חי וקום. "David king of
Israel, live and rise." I had expected



something like, "rest in peace." What a surprise! It is an expression of confident hope in David's resurrection, that he will be restored to them some day.

The belief is that the Jews will all be reanimated. And this will begin in the land of Israel, right near Jerusalem in fact. See for example Joel 3:12, “Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.” The Valley of Jehoshaphat is understood as the Kidron Valley. Since the Mount of Olives overlooks it, the Jews buried there get a front row seat to watch the Lord judge their enemies. So that part of Israel is jammed full with [Jewish](#)



[graves](#). Almost 5000 Americans were buried near there in the last decade. Jews from around the world want to rise from the dead right there in Israel.

After all, a whole chapter of Genesis (chapter 23) is about Abraham securing a burial spot in the land. Jacob insisted that he be buried there too, and not in Egypt. Joseph expressed the same wish. So doing what these Jews do is simply being biblical. Why not be interred near Jerusalem, where Messiah will come, where the resurrection will begin, and where the Last Judgment will happen? Such is the faith of the Jews of Israel.

Jesus rode up to Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowd greeted him as the king of Israel. He said, “If these were silent, the very stones would cry out” (Luke 19:40). I wonder if he was referring to the gravestones; more specifically, to the dead who were buried there?

Christians cannot help but read Zech 14:4—God standing with his feet on the Mount of Olives—without picturing Jesus. He ascended from there, and will return the same way (Acts 1:11 – 12). What for Jews is a day of judgment, for Christians is also the hope of Messiah’s second coming. Zechariah 14 describes the final dispensation of all things, including joy and exaltation.

All will then be as it should be. And we Christians will follow Christ into the New Jerusalem—that fresh and new, glorious restoration of Eden—in our new resurrected lives, to reign with him forever. Such is the hope of the gospel.

If the Jews can organize their lives around their resurrection hope, should not Christians—who already enjoy every spiritual blessing from our resurrected Messiah—should we not even more than they organize our lives around our hope for the future?

Why are you discouraged, Christian? Why do you let the trials of this world distract you? So what if other people make more money than you do? So what if you are misunderstood? Who cares if they get the accolades and the prestige? Those things are not what life is all about. Your life and mine is headed somewhere. Let *that* sink in and refresh your attitude. It is in this manner that Christians are able to experience joy in the midst of sorrow and peace in the midst of upset.

The Lord of glory is coming! His feet will stand upon the mountain! And you will see him! He says, “You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you” (John 16:22).

Amen, Come Lord Jesus!