

Zechariah Chapter 6

V: 1 Another vision four chariots come from from between two bronze mountains.
Bronze is the metal of Judgment.

- The brazen altar and all the instruments of the Tabernacle in the outer court were made of brass. That's where the sacrifices occurred.

Leviticus 26:18-19 “¹⁸And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. ¹⁹I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.”

Deuteronomy 28:23 “And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.”

- In Judges Sampson was bound with bronze fetters:
- In Daniel's prophecy describing Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the great tree that was chopped down and the stump was bound with iron and bronze. Iron, the strength of the judgment.

V: 2-3 Chariots and horses. Chariots and horses are generally weapon of war and symbolic of power, or in this case judgment. War, famine, power, strength.

Revelation 6:2-8 The four horsemen of the apocalypse;

1. White horse: bow, conquering.
2. Fiery red horse: taking peace / war, sword to kill.
3. Black horse: scales, economic power, extreme inflation leading to famine.
4. Pale (Chloros, green / yellowish, dried grass) horse: kill with sword, hunger, pestilence.

Zechariah 1:8 I saw by night, and behold a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow and behind him were horses: red, sorrel / speckled, and white.

- Red (war), black (famine), white (power), “dappled” horses. “Grisled” in KJV. Referring to something mottled, spotted, speckled, dappled (strength).

“*Strong steeds.*”

V: 4-5 I like Zechariah, like us, he's asking “well, what's that?”

“*These are four spirits of heaven...*” I wouldn't have gotten that unless I was told.

- Angels from heaven, ministering spirits.

V: 5-8 We're not given a complete explanation of what all of this means. We know that these spirits are from heaven, meaning they are good. The chariots with the black and white horses are the cops that go to the North country (Babylon) and give rest to to "My" meaning God's Spirit.

- The dappled / grisled go towards the South (Egypt) - and these three walk to and fro throughout the earth.
- We're not told what the chariot drawn by red horses is doing.
- God is sending, dispatching these angelic spirits out to their stations.

We're told:

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

- This describes the ranking of the demonic realm, so it stand to reason that there would be an opposing heavenly force directed by God in this spiritual battleground.
- We know that the heavenly angels minister to mankind.

Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

- God seems to be positioning these angelic forces in preparation for a spiritual battle.

6th trumpet judgment:

Revelation 9:14-15 "14Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. 15So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind."

- We're getting a preview kind of a glimpse into the spiritual realm, that spiritual battles raging all around us.
- We're not given any more information apart from their positioning and that they bring rest to the Spirit of God in the North country.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "8For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

- There are just some things that we're not going to understand until we get more info.

V: 9-11 The Word of the Lord comes again to Zechariah, he's instructed to receive the gift from the captives: The guests were to stay in the house of Josiah.

Edict of Artaxerxes, king of kings:

Ezra 7:14-16 “¹⁴And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God which is in your hand; ¹⁵and whereas you are to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem; ¹⁶and whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priest, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem.”

- **Heldai:** “Life” - “Age” - “My time”
- **Tobijah:** (Tobiah) “Goodness of Jehovah” - “Jehovah is Good.”
- **Jedaiah:** “Praise of the LORD” - “Jehovah is Praise” - “Known of the LORD”
- Then go to the house of **Josiah** (“Given to the LORD”) the son of **Zephaniah**. “Protected by the LORD”
- Take the gifts of silver and gold and make an elaborate crown for **Joshua** the high priest. “Jehovah is Salvation”

Zechariah 3:5 Joshua has already been equipped with a clean turban, now add to the an elaborate crown made up of gold & silver.

- In Zechariah 3 not long after receiving clean clothes and a clean turban there is the announcement of the BRANCH.

Zechariah 3:8 “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and our companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My servant the BRANCH.”

- The **BRANCH** - the root or offspring of Jesse, that descendant of king David
- Similarly, the addition of the elaborate crown to Joshua's turban brings the next mention of the BRANCH.

V: 12-13 We know that the name Joshua mean “Jehovah is Salvation” - the Greek equivalent for Joshua is the name “Jesus” - God is salvation. Here Jesus is being crowned - then “**the man**” whose name is the BRANCH!”

- We know that the **BRANCH** is a reference to the Messiah, the offspring of Jesse, the offspring of king David - our Lord Jesus.

★ **Isaiah 11:1** “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch** shall grow out of His roots.”

★ **Jeremiah 23:5** “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a **Branch** of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

- Interestingly enough the Jews also recognize this Scripture as being a reference to the Messiah, and that the Messiah will be a man.
- The Jews are looking for the Messiah who will be a man, but how will they recognize the man they're looking for?

“*And He shall build the temple of the LORD.*” - The man who helps them build their temple will be hailed or received as the Messiah.

- There is a dangerous flaw in their understanding of things.

Daniel 9:27 “Then he ^(AC) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

- Daniel, describes this prince to come, who is the Antichrist. It tells us that he will make a covenant with the nation of Israel. But in the midst of the seven year period, or after three and a half years, he will break the covenant, and he will set up the abomination, which will cause the desolation.
- He will cause the daily sacrifices and prayers to cease. This prince that shall come, is actually the Antichrist, he makes this covenant with the nation of Israel, part of this covenant creates peace in the Middle East, and through this agreement they will be able to rebuild their temple.
- The Jews are looking for a man to come with a solution whereby they can rebuild their temple, they will mistakenly assume that man to be their Messiah.
- Which when he brings his own image into the Temple and demands that they worship his image they realize to their horror that he is not the Messiah, they reject him as such and thus begins the next holocaust where only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Jews survive.
- Jesus the BRANCH will build the Temple, just not the way the Jews think.

Remembering the Words of Jesus:

Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church...”

Ephesians 2:20-22 “²⁰Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

1 Peter 2:4-5 “⁴Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- Two times it says “*He shall build the temple of the LORD.*” As if for emphasis.

“^{13b}*He shall bear the glory, ...*” God doesn’t share His glory with anyone, He rightly deserves to be glorified.

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.”

1 Corinthians 1:29 “that no flesh should glory in His presence.”

“^{13c}*and shall sit and rule on His throne; ...*”

- Priests don’t have thrones, but kings do - this goes along with the “*elaborate crown.*”
- The Branch that we know to be the Messiah, Jesus - represented by the High Priest Joshua - Yeshua - Jesus is a priest sitting as a king on a throne.
- Our Lord Jesus is the only One who fulfills all three offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.

“*And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*”

V: 14-15 The elaborate crown will be for a memorial to the men who brought the gifts, to “Helem” (Robust / Strong) previously referred to as “Heldai” and to “Hen” (Gracious Gift) previously referred to as Josiah.

- There will be more who will come from afar to help build / complete the Temple and by this, by the fulfillment of this Word you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me (Zechariah) to you.
- This is a conditional promise, this God will do “*if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.*”

Zechariah Chapter 7

V: 1 Time stamp / two years later. 4th day of the 9th month Chislev, Nov-Dec.

- As we left off in Chapter 6 two years prior there had been a revival, the people re-dedicating their lives to the LORD and setting about the re-building of the Temple, getting to work in earnest. Now 2 years later they are at about the mid-point of completing the Temple.

Ezra 6:15 “Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar (Feb / Mar), which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.”

- So they are at about the ½ way point.

V: 2-3 The people, the Jewish elders left behind in Babylon sent Sherezer (Prince of Fire) and Regem-Melech (Friend of the King) along with their escort to inquire at the house of God and to confer with the priests.

- The question at hand was should we continue to weep and fast as we have done over the last 70 years.
- In their captivity the Jewish leaders declared a fast in the 5th month of Ab (July / August) to commemorate the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar. They had been doing this for 70 years.
- It's important to note that there is only one fast that God commanded, and that was yearly at Yom Kippur, the day of atonement.
- All the other holidays were feast days, days of celebration and feasting - that is what God appointed. It was communing with Him, enjoying His presence and His blessing in their lives. But sadly it had become religious observance.
- The Jews went on to command other fasts, one in the 4th month coinciding for when Nebuchadnezzar broke through and entered into Jerusalem.
- The 5th month to commemorate the destruction and burning of the Temple.
- Another fast in the 7th month when Gadaliah, the Babylonian appointed governor was killed. (The prophet Jeremiah describes this.)
- Then another fast in the 10th month for the complete destruction and burning of the city, with all the people being taken captive.

- They've been doing all of this for 70 years and now they're asking that because the Temple is being re-built is this all still necessary. None of it was necessary from the beginning!
- The bigger problem when you think about it is that they are fasting and grieving over the consequences of their sin, not over the sin itself. What brought these judgments to them? Their sin, their rebellion against God, their rejecting His Word - that is what they should have been grieving over and repenting of!

John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:7-8 “⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance...”

V: 4-6 As with so many religious efforts and spiritual exercises, they can become routine and meaningless over time. So God calls them on it. We they really doing it for Him?

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶... Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. ⁹He said to them, “all too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

- When you eat and drink don't you do it for yourselves? They're playing it off like they're very spiritual - but if that had been the case they're wouldn't have remained in Babylon - they would have returned when they were give the ability to do so.
- This is a rebuke to those who stayed behind, not to those in Jerusalem obediently doing the work.

V: 7-13 The prophet speaking for the Lord is reminding them, you didn't listen to the prophets before the captivity and you're not listening now.

“Should you not have obeyed the words which the LORD proclaimed through the former prophets...?”

- Then and now, God is not looking for empty religion, He's looking for us to engage in a living, loving, faith walk with Him!

Micah 6:6-8 “⁶With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of

my soul? ⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

V: 8 Present tense, the Word came to Zechariah telling them, present tense:

Isaiah 55:3, 6 ³"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you - the sure mercies of David." -
⁶"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

V: 9-10 Do the right thing! He wouldn't tell them to do these things if they were already doing it. They are behaving now just like they did before the captivity.

1. Execute true justice.
2. Show mercy and compassion.
3. Don't oppress the widow or the fatherless, or the alien, or the poor.
4. Don't plot evil things against your brother.

Proverbs 21:3 "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice."

- Sadly over time, things did not improve - tradition and religion are resilient.

Jesus rebukes the religious leaders of His day:

Matthew 23:14 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation."

V: 11-12 At the moment it's hard to tell if this is now past tense, like before the captivity, or present tense their current situation.

Hebrews 3:15 "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

- In hardening their hearts and refusing to hear, rejecting His Word, the word of the prophets sent to them - great wrath came upon them.

Proverbs 13:13 "He who despises the Word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded."

V: 13-14 It all played out just as God said it would - but they had a choice in the matter, sadly their choice was to reject God and His Word - and the consequences were terrible.

- And just like He said, they did eventually call upon Him, but it was too little too late, they were taken captive and scattered throughout the gentile nations while the land was made desolate.

Proverbs 1:24-31 “²⁴Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸Then they will call on Me, but I will not answer; they will seek Me diligently, but they will not find Me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰they would have none of my counsel and despised My every rebuke. ³¹Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.”

- They are about to make the same mistake, and they are being warned against it.
- The influence from the Babylonian Jews would be a corrupting influence that would eventually take hold. History is about to repeat itself unless they repent.
- The lesson that I take away from this is what is spoken to the Ephesian church in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”