

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
VISION OF THE HORNS AND CARPENTERS
ZECHARIAH 1:18-21

Introduction

The **DEVIL** despises **GOD'S PROMISES** concerning both **ISRAEL** and the **CHURCH!** He is behind the persecution of both **ISRAEL** and the **CHURCH** because of his intense and utter hatred of **GOD** and everything associated with **GOD!**

1. We know that **SATAN** intended to prevent the **MESSIAH'S BIRTH** in **BETHLEHEM**, but he failed!
2. When he could not prevent **MESSIAH'S BIRTH**, he sought to have **HIM** killed as a young child by **HEROD THE KING** and his minions, but he failed in that too! (*Matthew 2*)
3. Then, during **CHRIST'S** earthly ministry **SATAN** sought to have **CHRIST** killed before his time, but he failed time and time again! Then, **CHRIST** went willingly to the cross and gave **HIS LIFE** as a ransom for all! No doubt, the **DEVIL** thought he finally had victory over **GOD**, but the grave could not hold **HIM!** **CHRIST** arose three days later and showed **HIMSELF** alive for forty days on the earth before **HE** ascended to **HIS FATHER'S THRONE!**

JESUS, THE MESSIAH is **COMING AGAIN** one day in great **POWER** and **GREAT GLORY** to set up **HIS KINGDOM** in **ISRAEL** and **SATAN** won't be able to do anything about that either!

At **HIS FIRST ADVENT**, **JESUS** conquered the **DEVIL** along with **DEATH, HELL**, and the **GRAVE** and **REDEEMED** the world on **CALVARY'S CROSS!** At **HIS SECOND ADVENT**, **CHRIST** will destroy the **ANTI-JEW** and **ANTI-CHRISTIAN** empire! That is what this vision is about!

As we look at both **HISTORY** and current world affairs, it seems as though these *four horns* heard what the **LORD** had promised **ISRAEL**, and now they are doing all they can to prevent this **PROMISE** from being fulfilled!

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We know that it wasn't the *four horns*, but rather **SATAN**, the one who leads them, that overheard! He knows **JERUSALEM'S FUTURE** and has been using the **NATIONS** to resist **GOD'S PLAN** for centuries! This is **SATAN'S** battle against the **ONE WHO** promised to choose **JERUSALEM** again!

As the prince and god of the **NATIONS**, **SATAN** will lead an assault against **ISRAEL!** He was behind the **PHARAOH OF EGYPT** in trying to prevent the **JEWS** from reaching **THE PROMISED LAND!** Look at what **ISAIAH** writes in *ISAIAH 51:9-11!*

This same **DRAGON** is the one who opposes **ISRAEL** in these last days, with the intention of destroying **GOD'S PROMISES** and preventing **JESUS' RETURN!**

Revelation 12:13—"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child"

Revelation 12:17—"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ".

In more recent history, we see how the **DRAGON** has used the **GENTILE NATIONS** to oppose **ISRAEL**. Who was behind the **HOLOCAUST?** Who is behind **ISLAM?** Who is behind all the hatred for the **JEWS** today?

- I. **WE NOTICE THE WATCHFULNESS OF THE PROPHET!**
The **LORD** gave **ZECHARIAH** this **REVELATION** during the night. The **PROPHET** "...*lifted up his eyes and saw.*" This action illustrates a **CONTINUOUS WATCHFULNESS** in the middle of the night.

Could I tell you that we are living in the **EVENING** of **SPIRITUAL HISTORY!** The night around us is growing darker!

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That is why **WE NEED TO WATCH!** **GOD** wants us to understand **HIS PLAN** for the **ENDTIMES!** If we are **SPIRITUALLY ASLEEP**, then we will dream right through the important **SPIRITUAL EVENTS** of our time!

The **LORD** had a reason for saying this to **HIS DISCIPLES** in *Mark 13:37*, "*...what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch*" It is very important that we concern ourselves with the **PROPHETIC WORD** of the **BIBLE** and try to understand its meaning just as **DANIEL** did in his time!

Daniel 9:22—"And he (Gabriel) informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding" .

ZECHARIAH was the type of man who immediately asked for an explanation when he didn't understand something. (*Vs. 9, 19, 21*)

DANIEL did the same thing with his friends when he needed to interpret **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S** dream!:

Daniel 2:17-19—"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven"

Revelation 1:3 says: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

So, just as the **PROPHET ZECHARIAH** was **WATCHFUL**, we also need to be **WATCHFUL!**

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II. WE NOTICE THE MEANING OF THESE FOUR HORNS!
The **FOUR HORNS** symbolize the **GENTILE NATIONS'** endless enmity against **JUDAH** and **ISRAEL** and especially against **JERUSALEM!**

HORNS in the **BIBLE** represent **POWER**. They indicate almost invincible **STRENGTH** and **POLITICAL POWER!**
Micah 4:13—*Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion: for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass: and thou shalt beat in pieces many people: and I will consecrate their gain unto the LORD, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.*

Revelation 13:11—"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and **ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy!"**

Revelation 17:12—"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast."

Also *Daniel 7:24, 8:8-9, 20-22*

In **ZECHARIAH'S** case, these **HORNS** also symbolize the **POWER OF THE NATIONS** that are against **ISRAEL!** Notice the last part of *verse 19!*

III. WE NOTICE WHO THESE HORNS REPRESENT!
These **HORNS** represent the four **WORLD EMPIRES** revealed to **DANIEL** in *DANIEL 2*—**BABYLON, PERSIA, GREECE and ROME!**
(Head of Gold, Breast and Arms of Silver, Belly and Thighs of Brass, Legs of Iron and Feet Part of Iron and Part of Clay.)

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During **ZECHARIAH'S** time, there had been only two **WORLD EMPIRES: BABYLON and PERSIA**. Yet, in chapter **9:13**, he speaks of **GREECE**, which was still a few centuries in the future. And he also saw **ROME** follow **GREECE**.

ZECHARIAH recognized that **SATAN** will continue to oppose and oppress **ISRAEL** through **HOSTILE NATIONS** to try to prevent the **LORD** from ruling in **JERUSALEM** as **HE** has **PROMISED!** (*Zechariah 1:12-17*).

The **JEWS** clung to **JERUSALEM** in their hearts during the centuries of their **DISPERSION**. Countless **JEWS** died far from their homeland, but their hearts were nonetheless in **JERUSALEM!**

Their **HOPE** was always to be back in **JERUSALEM** soon! This **HOPE** is expressed by the words in **PSALM 137:5-6**, *"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."*

These four **HORNS** also represent the **GENTILE NATIONS'** worldwide **HOSTILITY** toward **ISRAEL**, because the number four can also represent **the four directions: north, south, east and west**. We know that **ISRAEL** is hated all over the world, because the world is under the **DRAGON'S RULE!** The **JEWS** have always been surrounded by a threatening world!

ZECHARIAH wrote that one day, all of the **NATIONS** would attack the **JEWS**, and that all of the **NATIONS** would gather against **JERUSALEM!** (*Zechariah 12:2-3*)

The **BIBLE** leaves no doubt that all the **NATIONS** will focus on **ISRAEL**, and that this will take place at **ARMAGEDDON:** *Revelation 16:14—"For they are the spirits of devils, working*

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miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty"

According to **REVELATION chapter 17**, the **NATIONS** will give their **POWER** to this one **HORN**, the **ANTICHRIST**, and, inspired by the **DRAGON**, he will lead the **NATIONS** into war against **ISRAEL!**

Yet we know that nothing and nobody, neither in heaven nor on earth, nor under the earth that will be able to destroy the **PROMISES OF THE LORD** to **HIS PEOPLE!**

IV. WE NOTICE THE FOUR CARPENTERS. (Vs 20)

The word translated as "**CARPENTERS**" in *verse 20* comes from a **HEBREW** word that means "*a fabricator of any material.*"

It is translated in other places in the **OLD TESTAMENT** as "*artificer, carpenter, craftsman, engraver, maker, mason, skilful, smith, worker, workman,*"

In *Psalms 75:10* the **LORD** said, *"All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted"*

These "**CARPENTERS**" will be used by **GOD** to terrify the **HORNS** and cut them off. How will it be done? How will it happen?

The four "**CARPENTERS**" oppose the "**FOUR HORNS.**" *Isaiah 54:16* says, *"Behold, I have created the smith [same word as the word "carpenter"] that bloweth the coals and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy."* In days past, the **LORD** used individual **WORLD EMPIRES** to destroy the one preceding it. **HE** did this for a very specific reason recorded that we saw in *Zechariah 1:15: "And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little*

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displeased, and they helped forward the affliction."

- A. PERSIA, The First CARPENTER, Overcame BABYLON!**
PERSIA'S KING CYRUS was raised up by **GOD HIMSELF** as a "**CARPENTER**" and was destined to conquer **BABYLON!**

GOD'S infinite **WISDOM, POWER,** and **LOVE** for **ISRAEL** is revealed in the words recorded in *Isaiah 45:1-4*.

We know that **CYRUS** conquered **BABYLON** and gave **ISRAEL** the freedom to return to **JERUSALEM**. But what is amazing is that about 200 years before **CYRUS**, **GOD** called him by his name and said of him in *Isaiah 44:28*, "*...He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid*"

That is exactly what happened! The **LORD** chose in **CYRUS** a "**CARPENTER**" to terrify the **HORN** of **BABYLON** and cut it off.

Daniel 5:6 describes how the **BABYLONIAN** king, **BELSHAZZAR** was reduced to fear and trembling on the night **PERSIA** attacked and conquered him.

In the time following **CYRUS**, **PERSIA** suffered a defeat and the **PERSIAN EMPIRE** also opposed **ISRAEL**. Then the **LORD** awakened another "**CARPENTER**."

- B. GREECE, The Second CARPENTER, Overcame PERSIA!**
ALEXANDER THE GREAT is mentioned particularly

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(though not by name) in *DANIEL*.

His kingdom is described in *Daniel 2, 7* and *8* as **PERSIA'S** successor. It is said that **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** treated the **JEWS** in a friendly manner, but after his early death, the **EMPIRE** was divided and it also ended up opposing **ISRAEL**.

This took place mainly under **KING ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES**, who came from **SYRIA** and who is mentioned in *Daniel 8*.

So, **GOD** awakened another "**CARPENTER**" who cut off the **HORN** of **GREECE** and broke its **POWER!**

- C. ROME, The Third CARPENTER, Overcame GREECE!**
ROME, which is also mentioned in *Daniel 2, 7, 8* and in the **BOOK** of **REVELATION**, was the mightiest **EMPIRE** as well as the one that lasted the longest.

The **ROMANS** ruled **ISRAEL** when **JESUS** was born, and destroyed **JERUSALEM** in **70 A.D.** **JULIUS CAESAR** was **ROME'S** first, and probably greatest, leader.

ROME'S fall did not transpire through a **CARPENTER** taking over world rulership as with the preceding **EMPIRES**. Rather, **ROME** experienced an inner decay; it degenerated, lost wars, divided itself and eventually fell.

Why didn't it suffer the same fate as the **EMPIRES** before it?

Well, the **BIBLE** shows that **ROME** will experience a new revival in the **ENDTIMES** and will become the last world **EMPIRE** with ten **HORNS**.

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The **REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE** will introduce the political **ANTICHRIST**. All of the preceding **EMPIRES** will be united in this last world **EMPIRE** (*Revelation 13:1-2*), and all the **NATIONS** will turn against **ISRAEL** and attempt to destroy her.

But this **REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE** will be destroyed by **JESUS' RETURN!** (*Revelation 17:14*).

**D. MESSIAH JESUS Is The Fourth CARPENTER!
JESUS HIMSELF will conquer the ANTI-SEMITIC,
ANTI-CHRISTIAN EMPIRE.**

We read of **HIM** and **HIS FUTURE** in *Daniel 2:44*—"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

The **LORD JESUS** is a special kind of **CARPENTER!** Look at the description of **HIS FUTURE KINGDOM** in *Isaiah 2:1-4*.

**V. WE LOOK BACK TO THE FOUR HORNS OF GOD'S
GRACE. (Exodus 27:1-2)**
This was the **BRAZEN ALTAR** upon which the whole **BURNT OFFERING** was **SACRIFICED**. It points to **CALVARY**, where **MESSIAH JESUS** died for **HIS PEOPLE** and **ALL OF MANKIND!**

These **FOUR HORNS** of the **ALTAR** symbolize **GOD'S SUPERIOR POWER** compared to all other world powers.

The **POWER OF HIS FORGIVENESS** is stronger than the

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POWER OF SIN, and it reaches to the ends of the earth.

ATONEMENT was to be accomplished once a year on the **HORNS** of this **ALTAR** with the **BLOOD** of the **SIN OFFERING** for the **PEOPLE OF ISRAEL**.

Exodus 30:10—"And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD."

ISRAEL'S great **DAY OF ATONEMENT** is not far off! She will grasp the **FOUR HORNS OF GRACE** and **FORGIVENESS** and look upon the **SACRIFICE** (*Zechariah 12:10*)!

Exodus 29:37 says: "...whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy."

GOD'S PEOPLE will then receive **FORGIVENESS** and **HOLINESS**. All of this will take place in one single day! *Zechariah 3:9*—"...I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day." *Zechariah 14:20* says, "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD**; and the pots in the **LORD'S** house shall be like the bowls before the altar."

The **LORD** will achieve **HIS** goal with **ISRAEL** and **HIS CHURCH!** The gates of hell will not prevail against them, for the rulers of this world will pass away, but **JESUS CHRIST** is coming back! Are you ready for His coming? If not, you had better get ready!