

## XI. Zechariah in Biblical Perspective

### *The Gospel According to Zechariah*

#### “Vision #8: The Four Chariots”

Zechariah 6:1-8

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In this study we will bring to a conclusion the first section of Zechariah as we look at the last and eighth vision Zechariah had in one night. In our next study of Zechariah we'll be moving onto the oracles of Zechariah. This book has one foot back in the temple era that points to the Gospels and the fulfillments in Christ and then ultimately to the Book of Revelation itself. Let's pray:

*Father, guide our thoughts and our minds to be faithful to Your Word. Please allow Your Word to be embraced, understood and then for it to make its appropriate impact in our life. We thank You for these evening hours together as Your people on this Lord's Day. Be with us by Your Spirit, I pray in Jesu's Name, Amen.*

In our last study we were in Zechariah 5 where we looked at two visions. I want to go back briefly to these two visions for two reasons. Number one, because of time, I had to kind of edit some things out that I think would be important to make sure that you understand from those two visions and because these three visions work very closely together, particularly as this last vision picks up on the themes introduced in the first vision of Zechariah 1 with the Four Horsemen that came. In this study we will now be looking at the four chariots with their horses. So we have vision one and vision eight, but vision eight is also tied to visions six and seven, which is around the theme of judgment.

In the last study we looked at visions six and seven, which gave the vision of the coming judgment of God and judgment begins with the household of God. The sixth vision gave us the judgment of God upon the household of God with the assurance that the individuals will be judged and God will purify His covenant community as it moves into eternity, because on this side of eternity, God's covenant community is a mixed community. There are those there that don't belong to the Lord. There are those with false professions of faith. It was seen in the 12 with Jesus, with Judas Iscariot being the traitor. It was seen in the early church with individuals like Simon, the Magician and others who had made profession, were baptized, brought in and were tasting of the good things to come, were partaking and seeing all of God's blessing, yet had not the relationship with Christ.

We see it in the words of Christ when He declares that on the last day there will be those who claim to have been a part of the community saying, ‘Did we not prophesy in Your name? Did we not do miracles in Your name? Did we not proclaim in Your name? Did we not do all these things in Your name?’ and Christ will say ‘Depart from Me, I never knew you’ (Matthew 7:21-23). There was no saving relationship with Christ. This vision is pointing us in that direction to remind us that God will cleanse His covenant community at the Day of Judgment.

My pastor, when I was growing up, used to make this comment. He said, “I think we're going to have some surprises for at the Day of Judgment there are going to be some we thought were in that aren't and at that the Day of Judgment, there will probably be some we didn't know we're in and they are and we were not able to see it, but God's judgment is righteous and sure.” All of those written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be affirmed and brought into through

righteousness of Christ and the cleansing blood of Jesus and that will have been evidenced in their life.

Not only is there the judgment that begins with the household of God, that is focused on the individual within the covenant community, but God's judgment also falls upon corporate judgment of God's people. We see in the Book of Revelation that the lampstand would be removed. That is, here is a church that's no longer a church, or another church is identified as actually a synagogue of Satan instead of Christ's Church. So, God's judgment that begins with the household of God is personally delivered, but also corporately engaged as God is continually removing it for we see whole denominations that are removed as they have apostatized or individual churches or ministries. That is what visions six and seven gives us.

Now, I want to go back read from those visions because while judgment begins with the household of God personally and corporately, it doesn't stop with the household of God. That is what will bring us to vision eight that we will look at in this study and we will see how these three are tied together. Here is vision six.

*Zechariah 5:1-4 says [1] Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll! [2] And he said to me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." [3] Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. [4] I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones."*

A reminder here is that the curse of God comes with the declaration of the Law of God, that those who are under the redeeming work of the Lord get the blessings of the law because Christ has taken its curse. Those who are not in Christ, then the curse of the law is upon them. Remember the land this is referring to is not all of the world, but it's referring to the Promised Land, the place of His covenant people who were occupying that land and God's judgment is going to search out those who do not have that vital, intimate, personal relationship with Him as it is evidenced by their disobedience and blasphemy in life. According to verse 4, not only will this judgment fall upon him, but it will have an impact in his household itself. He singles out the eighth and the ninth Commandments and the disobedience of those, for you cannot hide from the judgment of God and that God brings judgment within His household down to the individuals themselves, as He cleans it out.

Now, a number of people have asked me, 'Harry, how do you get to the point that He is declaring His judgment according to His law?' There are seven things from this vision I gave in the last study that go towards this and here they are. Number one, there is a scroll. Number two, that scroll is unrolled because the full measurements of it are given. So this is now actively being used, it's not being stored away. Three, the scroll is unrolled and it's massive. It is ten cubits by 20 cubits which would be 15 feet by 30 feet. Those measurements give us a clue as to what He is speaking of – this scroll is actually the law of God. Now, one of the ways that we know it's a law of God is the law of God, when it was received from God, was written on both sides. So fourthly, this scroll has writing on both sides. Another thing that we know is its content includes the eighth and the ninth commandment. Fifthly, this scroll is unique in action, for it's a flying scroll that is suspended, hovering. Sixthly, it contains the law of God and seven, it can be directed swiftly into judgment where the judgment is sure for there is nothing that can stop it as it comes from the sovereign hand of God into our life.

Another one of the other clues that this is the law of God is this measurement. Due to this I was asked if this had anything to do with the Holy of Holies, which has a similar declaration of measurement? I don't think so. I think this does, though, take us back to the temple. These visions have their foot in the temple, which is a reflection of the heavenlies – the temple of God with the Holy of Holies is a reflection of the heavenlies and the heavenly dwelling of God. Here we have something that's taking us back to Solomon's temple in its final construction. Let's look at I Kings 6. This chapter is talking about Solomon and the building of the temple.

I Kings 6:2-3 says [2] *The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.* [3] *The vestibule (porch) in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house.* Then it goes on to further describe the house, the temple building and its architecture. Now, what makes that interesting is that we have the clues in the Scripture that in the reading of the Law of God, it was read from Solomon's Portico, Solomon's porch, Solomon's nave, which was measured, ten cubits by 20 cubits.

In Zechariah 5, we find in this vision the scroll, not the place, but the scroll itself is a replication of the very architecture of the place where the Law of God was read from Solomon's Portico. So what we have here, I believe, is very clearly God's law, and it's judgments that come upon those individually who are in the midst of God's covenant community, but without the dynamic of that personal relationship with Christ. Now you move from the judgment of God upon His household individually to the judgment of God upon the household corporately.

Now we go to the seventh vision. Zechariah 5:5- says [5] *Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, "Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out."* [6] *And I said, "What is it?" He said, "This is the basket (measuring basket) that is going out." And he said, "This is their iniquity in all the land."* (Still in the Promised Land) [7] *And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket!* [8] *And he said, "This is Wickedness." And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening.*

[9] *Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.* [10] *Then I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they taking the basket?"* [11] *He said to me, "To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base."*

What is Shinar? Shinar is the place where the rebellion against God was declared by the formation of the city Babel, and the building of the Tower of Babel in the land of Shinar. This is found in Genesis 6. So, in this place of corporate rebellion against God, God is now showing His judgment upon this woman of wickedness. It's interesting to note that in the New Testament we have the man of sin and in the Old Testament, we have the woman of evil or the woman of sin. As the covenant community is depicted as a woman, the bride of the Messiah so also that which stands in rebellion against God is depicted by the female gender, such as the whore of Babylon itself.

Here is this woman in this basket and it has a leaden weight which means it's heavy and can't be moved for its placed down to hold the woman of wickedness there and to be taken away to judgment. The taking away is by those two women with wings like a stork. Now, the stork would be an unclean bird and was not in the acceptable families. As an unclean bird, it is depicted as that which is supplying the movement of this woman in this basket unto judgment

itself. Interestingly, the wings of two women – we cannot miss what seems to be clearly pointing back to the temple. In the temple, the very presence of God and His blessing is depicted by the Ark of the Covenant and the wings of the cherubim that are upon its side. The Ark of the Covenant would have in it the staff of Aaron, the manna from above and the Law of God, found in the Holy of Holies. But here judgment comes and this is not an Ark of the Covenant, for this is the corporate rebellion of a covenant people that is now being picked up and taken away into judgment. So we have seen the judgment upon the household of God personally where no one escapes and corporately where God is constantly dealing with those who have abandoned the faith and removing the Spirit of God, removing the lampstand – Ichabod, the glory of the Lord has departed.

How many have we seen? One of the reasons I try to labor with all of my inadequacies and inabilities in my own denomination is because we are in that dangerous moment that is affirmed in church history and affirmed in the book of Judges. It is that 40 to 80 year mark where corporate apostasy so many times becomes evidenced, and God calls His watchmen to be ready, to be faithful, to seek Him in prayer, and to bring His Word that we would not fall into such a death spiral of apostasy and under the judgment of God with a lampstand removed. You will have to search far and wide in Asia Minor or Turkey today to find a faithful church. The lampstand has been removed even as it was warned in those seven churches in the Book of Revelation. But now judgment does not end with the household of God, the judgment of God is universal.

Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:10, *[10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* The verdict you hear of that day is directly related to what book you are in. Are you in the books or are you in the Book of Life? Are you numbered with the sheep under the atoning work of the great Shepherd and evidenced by His new heart – the new heart, the new record and the new life, or are you under the judgment of God? Those who don't belong to Him, who are mixed in to God's people on this side of eternity, will be separated. The tares and wheat will be separated on that day, when His angels come forth for that harvest of judgment. We need to be praying for how the Lord will send us, not the angels, into the harvest of redemption that He has secured. On that Day He will send the angels who put in the sickle on the harvest of judgment, as it's explained in Matthew 13 in the parable of the tares as well as others. So, there is coming a final judgment, but it will not come until all of His people have been secured in Christ.

Now let's look at this eighth vision given to us in Zechariah 6. Zechariah 6:1-6 says *[1] Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. [2] The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, [3] the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong (powerful, invincible). [4] Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" [5] And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. [6] The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country." [7] When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth. [8] Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."*

In other words, according to verse 5, they are sent out from the presence of the Lord in the heavens and are coming to the earth. They will be coming from the four winds of heaven,

from the presence of the Lord into all the earth, not just the covenant land, but now throughout all of the Earth itself. According to verse 7 you can see these horses ready to go forward to accomplish their task. So here we have this movement being pictured with this military instrument of a chariot.

I know we're living in the age of missiles, rockets, push button technology, warfare and everything, but if you could just go back 50 to 100 years and you had this notion of what was the invincible military apparatus up until about the 18th century? It was the chariots and what was called the heavy Calvary, seemingly were unstoppable and infantry could not stand against them. The art of warfare, as soon as the rifle and the rifle shot were used, then the heavy Calvary lost its advantage. But the chariots would come and with all of their protection devices coming down with the thundering hooves of the horses, this was an invincible movement. When this is written back in the days of the Prophets, there would have been nothing more formidable than to see an army of powerful chariots and horses coming down upon you. So here we see this picture of an invincible military might, an army that was unstoppable. They used powerful military instruments and apparatus that are coming from heaven. This is the army of the Lord and it is now coming in judgment.

I know people are going to ask me about the red, white, dapple, and black horses so I'll go ahead and answer that. I honestly do not believe there is anything in the colors except to give you this glorious picture of these unstoppable chariots pulled by these invincible horses into the battle from heaven as they come from heaven. We know they come from heaven and therefore it's the army of the Lord, because they've been sent by the Lord from His presence. Again, we have the tie back into the temple. In fact, let's look at I Kings 7, back to that putting together of the Solomonic Temple.

I Kings 7:13-22 says *[13] And King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. [14] He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze. And he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.*

*[15] He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured its circumference. It was hollow, and its thickness was four fingers. The second pillar was the same. (These were massive pillars, which by the way, were replicated even larger by Herod when he redid the temple, moving into the first century.) [16] He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits. [17] There were lattices of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals on the tops of the pillars, a lattice for the one capital and a lattice for the other capital. [18] Likewise he made pomegranates in two rows around the one latticework to cover the capital that was on the top of the pillar, and he did the same with the other capital. [19] Now the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars in the vestibule were of lily-work, four cubits. [20] The capitals were on the two pillars and also above the rounded projection which was beside the latticework. There were two hundred pomegranates in two rows all around, and so with the other capital. [21] He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz. [22] And on the tops of the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.*

What were these pillars? These were the pillars. Now, remember, the temple is the shadow, the reflection of the heavens and the dwelling place of God and to leave the dwelling place of God, you went out by the pillars of bronze or to come into the dwelling place of God,

you went through the pillars of bronze. Here in Zechariah, we see two mountains of bronze and coming out from the presence of God by and through those two mountains into all the earth, are these four chariots from the Lord that are coming for warfare. How do we know that? Because all of the warfare against God's covenant people, those who would do them injury, those who would defeat them and destroy them, they didn't come from the West, why? It was the Mediterranean Sea. They didn't come from the east, why? It's the desert and the wilderness. All of the enemies of God would come from the north or from the south, from Egypt or from Assyria, Babylon and the Medo-Persians. Even though their countries were somewhat east of Israel, they still had to go up and around and come down through the north, through what was called the Valley of the Kings, and that's where all of the enemies would come unless they were coming from Egypt and then they would come from the south. It says in this passage that most of them have come through the north. So, He sends two of these chariots to the north and one to the south.

What about the chariot with the red horses? I don't have the slightest idea, but I know the Lord is a brilliant Commander, so my guess is He kept them in reserve. But He sends them into battle, and they then win the victory and the Spirit of God now rests. This is the final judgment. Now, when does that judgment take place? It takes place after all of God's people have been brought to Himself, but not before. There are a number of texts that we could go to in the book of Revelation that become a declaration of this final judgment, but I want to look at Revelation 19. This is the final judgment in which not only those in rebellion against God, but Satan, the fallen angels, death, hell and the grave are all cast into the lake of fire – the judgment before the throne of God, which is described in Revelation 20, but note its anticipation. First, there is the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:6-10 says [6] *Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. [7] Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; [8] it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.*

[9] *And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." [10] Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

In other words, God's Word points to Jesus, and therefore through Jesus to the worship and praise of our Triune God and all other worship must be forbidden. But what do we have here? It is the marriage Supper of the Lamb. All of the elect have been brought Christ and all of the mixed multitude has been taken away. Now the people of God are at the marriage Supper of the Lamb in the new Heavens and the New Earth. Vision six and seven are over. The judgment upon the household of God has brought the pure bride, and the work of the Gospel has brought all of the elect to Christ and now we are ready for eternity. But that's not all that happens, for here comes the eighth vision so let's continue in this Revelation passage.

Revelation 19:11-21 says [11] *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True (here we see the captain of this military army that comes out in righteousness), and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one*

*knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

*[17] Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, [18] to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." (Here is the Judgment Supper in opposition to the Marriage Supper.) [19] And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. [20] And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. [21] And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

Thus, the final judgment is depicted and further explained in the next chapter, Revelation 20. So, as we now install our pastor in these last few moments together I would say to you, pastor, there is so much about your ministry that's in these three visions. Number one, God is going to use you and your ministry to continue to gather His elect from every tribe and nation and then He'll come. Your ministry will be part of bringing others to saving faith in Christ as God uses our ministry of the Gospel, to lead men and women to Christ and He gathers all of His people because He will lose not one. Then He returns.

Secondly, you have a ministry that warns people that being within the boundaries of a covenant community will not save you. You have to have a saving relationship with Christ. Hell will be populated by unconverted members of churches. Hell will be populated by unconverted men who even served as ministers, teachers of evil masquerading as angels of light. But we have the privilege, the love of Christ and the love of others to speak the truth in faithful ministry. This leads us right into missions, doesn't it?

The Apostle Peter says, 'Hasten the coming of the Lord' (II Peter 3:12). How do we hasten the coming of the Lord? There are two things that have to happen before Jesus comes. Number one, the Gospel has to be preached to all the nations, that's what it tells us in Matthew 24. Number two, all of His people are to be brought to Him. When they are all brought to Him the table of the Supper of the Lamb is now full, then comes the Lord. When He returns, His army will come out to do war against the man of sin, the false prophet, the beast of the sea and the beast of the land – the tyrannical government in rebellion against God and the apostate church. And He will win that victory. There will be the judgment depicted as the gorging of the birds of the air, as the vultures descend – the storks, the vulture birds, the unclean – and then all have been cast into the lake of fire as His people now enter into a new heavens and the new Earth.

Judgment begins with the household of God, but it doesn't end there. It ends with the judgment of all humanity, as these four chariots come from the heavens, the army of the Lord to the four corners of the earth, and that place which has been a harvest of the redeemed, will then become the very scene theater of God's judgment, and all will stand before Him. I hope and pray on that day you are in Christ in that glorious Book of Life. While the day is still today, let's go

rescue the perishing and care for the die for this is the day of mercy and grace. Jesus is merciful. Jesus saves. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. We pray now as we bring this beautiful, wonderful service time to the glorious blessing that you bring to Your Church of faithful Gospel ministers. Thank you so much for the way that You have worked in the life of this man, whom you've called to be a pastor, who You have granted him a godly wife. Now, we set him aside to the Gospel ministry, and we pray for Your blessing upon him through the Bride of Christ, even as you minister to him through his own bride. We look forward to the great blessings that You will bring to him in the midst of Your people as we reach out into the world to bring all of the bride of Christ to the land, in Jesus' Name, Amen.