

# The Book of Zechariah

Lesson 2

## THE FIRST THREE VISIONS – 1:7-2:13

There were 3 waves of captivity into Babylon –**606/596/586** – total devastation  
There were also 3 waves of return – 536 -- 456 (Ezra) – 446 (Nehemiah)  
The Temple foundation was rebuilt in 536; work ceased for 16 years and then resumed in 520 (ministries of Haggai and Zechariah). The new Temple was finished in 516. (Dates are BC)

The Book of Zechariah from 1:7-6:8 contains 8 mysterious visions.

As we come to these visions – we should approach them as we do parables.

There is ONE CENTRAL MEANING to each vision.

There are details of each vision that should not be pressed into interpretation

### I. The Vision of the Riders among the Myrtle Trees 1:7-17

**A. The Vision Itself 7-8** (Haggai 1:14-15) 5 months after rebuilding resumed.

The man on the red horse is the focal point of the vision.

#### **B. The Explanation of the Vision 9-12**

The term “Angel of the Lord” often has OT significance.

These angelic beings on horses are WATCHERS.

They become a symbol of the omniscience of God

“Behold – the earth is resting quietly” -- Historically – there was peace at this time.

Why would this distress the Angel of the Lord? v. 12

v. 12 – the 70 year Captivity HAD come from the Hand of God).

*Oh, Lord, HOW LONG?* We have a similar scene in **Revelation 6:9-11**

The **meaning** is the same – the setting is different.

In Zechariah – it is the implied cry of the remnant.

In Revelation – it is the cry of the martyrs who have given their life for the truth.

**NOTE:** It is interesting to see that the Angel of the Lord calls out to the Lord of Hosts – An OT picture of Christ interceding to His Father for His people.

#### **C. The Promise of the Lord 13-17**

1. v. 13-14 – I have not forgotten Jerusalem.

2. v. 15 – I was angry with Jerusalem.

3. v. 16 -- Now we have a promise. The Temple work will prosper.

A surveyor’s line shall be stretched over Jerusalem.

There is MUCH meaning to this – which we will see in vision #3.

4. v. 17 – A literal promise to those who are suffering economic hardships.

Vision one primarily speaks of the history of Zechariah’s day – and promises an immediate blessing – while hinting at a still greater future blessing.

## II. The Vision of the Four Horns and the Four Workers 1:18-21

### A. The Symbolism Involved

1. Horns = authority or power
2. The Number 4 – often means “the 4 corners of the earth” N/S/E/W
3. The Craftsmen -- a sign of power – but this time – the power of God.

### B. The Interpretation

Building on vision 1 – we see that the nations have been the tool of God to chastise His people – and the nations joined together to do this.

Vision 2 shows God’s power and sovereignty over the all the nations and all of history.

## III. The Vision of the Man with a Measuring Line 2:1-13

### A. The Vision Itself 1-5

The surveyor’s line was promised in 1:16d. Now we find out what that means.

1. To measure Jerusalem.
2. The interpreting angel declares that Jerusalem will be large and prosperous.
3. She won’t need walls for protection – because GOD will be her protection.

During the Wilderness Journey – A cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Biblical imagery to encourage the remnant that the same God who protected their fathers in the wilderness will fulfill to them the promises made to their fathers.

### B. The Promise of the Vision 6-13

1. v. 6-7 – The promise of a return to Israel for a remnant
2. 8-9 – God’s judgment on those who harm His people.
3. v. 10-12 -- The promise transcends earthly Israel.  
The promise is greater than just to that huddled remnant group.  
God is angry with the nations – and will judge them – but God will also take many from those nations and make them HIS PEOPLE. They will join with Israel – and not be second-class citizens among them – but be MY PEOPLE.
4. v. 13 -- Habakkuk 2:20 says almost exactly the same thing.

His sovereignty is again in view in fulfilling the promises He has made and giving further promises of a day far greater than they had seen in the past.

Unfortunately, the Jews of Christ’s day took these visions too literally, and focused on the physical aspects of them – thinking they would become a great and mighty ruling power.