

The Journey Through Zechariah Session 2 Chapter 1

Here at Voice we have a solid mandate to stand with Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem; to establish a day and night house of prayer and worship; to equip the body of Christ in The Word of God; and to prepare the people with the understanding that is needed to navigate through the days ahead.

I shared last week a prophetic time line and how God had pointed to the book of Zechariah though His audible voice asking me the question, “**What do you see?**” This, of course, had a profound impact in my life and began the journey to find the answer to the question. I believe the answer is found in the book of Zechariah and God is highlighting this book not only to me, but to the body of Christ.

I would like to share just a few more moments of our journey. I love God’s woven plan and how He works all things to the good in His timing.

More confirmation:

1. Don Potter came to Voice Ministries to lead worship and teach and while he was staying at the camp. He said many Jews will come to Voice. It will be a refuge to them. Don said that he sensed a strong connection to Israel for Voice.
2. Mayor Mier (from the northern province of Galilee in Akko, Israel) came to Elkhart as a possible sister city and met with our Mayor, David Miller. He came to the camp to meet us and at the time there was a team in the house of prayer singing and praying for Israel lead by a Jewish man, Corey Stark. The Mayor, a son of a Rabbi, began to weep and left the prayer room. We had found out later that he had asked Jesus into his heart.
3. A silver brick was given on July 15, 2010. It was given to the House of Prayer and the individual quoted *Haggai 2:8* - “*The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine, declares the Lord of hosts.*” He said someday, because of what you are doing in the house of prayer and at Voice Ministries, you will need a vault behind the prayer room to store God’s blessing. This same scripture was texted to me by a dear friend who is prophetic and said they heard the Lord say verse 8 and also 9. Verse 9 - “*The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the Lord of hosts.*”

Personal for all of you:

You are here today, because God has your attention. He wants you to know His heart, about His Son, His people, His plan, His love, His future in you, and your future in Him. I believe that some of you here today will have your hope restored concerning your future. One thing I know is that You are His Beloved and He wont have it any other way.

So, I want to state again the great significance of this book in this time of history. It brings clarity and encouragement, as we will learn of God’s great and awesome master plan for Jerusalem His people. We as Christians are a great part of the days ahead, regarding the fulfillment of all things.

Warning: We do not want to neglect what happens in Jerusalem. I said last week that if you want to know what time it is, keep your eyes on Jerusalem! Jerusalem is the great stage in which the end-time drama will be played out. What happens in Jerusalem is a witness to God’s leadership, His love, and His faithfulness to His Word.

God loves Jerusalem: God's zeal is set on Jerusalem. Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in Scriptures, and Zion a 160 times. Zion usually speaks of Jerusalem. Jesus has great affection for this city. We need to ask the Lord (all of us) for what is He feeling toward this city. This is Jesus speaking in the book of Zechariah. He is Zealous for Jerusalem!

Zechariah 8: 2-3 – "I am Zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.' I will return to her and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the city of Truth, 'The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain."

Today we will cover:

- I. The Historical Setting of Zechariah:
- II. The Lords call to Repentance: This is Zechariahs First Message Zech. 1: 1-6
- III. Vision I. The first of eight visions received in on night: Zech: 1: 8-11
- IV. Vision II. Zech 1:18-21

I. The Historical setting of Zechariah:

A. The message of Zechariah is in the time that the nation of Israel was perhaps in their greatest crisis. Because of the peoples disobedience they were taken into captivity into Babylon, where they were working in slave camps for 70 years. This was told by the prophet Jeremiah. The bad news your going into captivity for 70 years , the good news you will be free in 70 years.

- i. *Thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed in Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. (Jer. 29:10)*
- ii. This is the period of time when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's Temple and turned the Temple and Jerusalem into rubble.
- iii. This is a very dramatic story of how a people, who were held in captivity, were then freed by the Spirit of God, who was moving on Cyrus the King. They chose to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem, which took five months and covered 700 miles. They returned with the goal to rebuild the Temple and establish worship according to the Tabernacle of David. (2 Chron. 29:25)
- iv. Only 50,000 out of 1 million Jews that were released chose to return to Jerusalem. They had to be men and women of great faith!!
- v. The Persian King, Cyrus released the finances to provide for their return, as the Holy Spirit moved on Cyrus.

What is so awesome about Cyrus is that Isaiah prophesied about him in (750 BC) 200 years before, that he would release the remnant of Israel from Babylon captivity to go to Jerusalem to build the Temple. (Isa. 45) King Cyrus gave them millions of dollars to return to Israel and rebuild the House of Prayer. (Ezra 1)

B. Zechariah was from a priestly family, so he understood the priestly office and the temple. He was a young man when God called him to be a prophet. His family returned from the Babylonian exile in 536BC. It is most likely the Zechariah was a very young boy when he

traveled to Jerusalem. Their family seems to be a very courageous family – to answer the call of God. Five months, 700 miles!

Now it is very important that you also read the book of Haggai, which is only two chapters, and the book of Ezra for they are both in this same time frame. This story is rich in prophetic history and amazing concerning our future and the future of the Kingdom of God reigning on the earth.

This book adds to the reason Jesus said when you pray, pray this prayer *“Your Kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10)

II. Zechariah Chapter One

- A. **A Call to Repentance: Zechariah 1: 1-6** – *“In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.’ ‘But they did not hear nor heed Me,’ says the Lord. ‘Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? Yet surely My words and My statutes, Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? ‘So they returned and said: ‘Just as the Lord of hosts determined to do to us, According to our ways and according to our deeds, So He has dealt with us.’”*
- B. **Verse 1:** A quick explanation of the introduction in verse 1, the book is dated according to the reign of Darius since there was no King in Israel. This indicates the times of the Gentiles, when the gentiles control all or part of Jerusalem. It began with Nebuchadnezzar and will continue until Jesus return.
- i. Iddo the prophet is Zechariah's grandfather, being a more prominent figure.
 - ii. Berechiah Zechariah's father was not mentioned in the genealogies found in Ezra.
- C. **Verse 2-3:** Zechariah's first message is a call to repentance.
- i. *“The Lord has been very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Return to Me,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord of hosts.*
 - ii. I want to make a point concerning this book. It is a very encouraging book and filled with hope to carry on, but in the beginning the Lord has to take care of some things first. Like, **Repent! Change your thinking! Change your ways!**
 - iii. Zechariah follows right in the flow with the book of Haggai 4:3-4 *“Is it time for you to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?” Now therefore, says the Lord of hosts, “Consider your ways!”*
 - iv. **Return to me:** It first speaks to me of God's love to request of them to come back to me I will forgive you and restore you. He is asking them to come in agreement of His Word. This involves turning to the Lord and turning from sin.
 - v. The Lord promises to return to them. *I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.*

- vi. The Lord of hosts. We find this term three times in verse three, and it means "YHWH of hosts." This title emphasizes the Lord's function as the divine warrior, who goes to war to deliver Israel from oppressive nations and judges Israel for her rebellion. It also is saying, I am over the hosts of Heaven. This army will defend you.
- D. **Verses 4-6:** *"Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds." ' But they did not hear nor heed Me," says the Lord. "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? Yet surely My words and My statutes, Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? "So they returned and said: 'Just as the Lord of hosts determined to do to us, According to our ways and according to our deeds, So He has dealt with us.'"*
- i. This is a case where we see the word of God going forth and it does not return without fulfilling its purposes. So we see the word from Jeremiah, God's word, overtake them and send them into captivity, because it cannot return to Him void.
 - ii. This still holds true today. God's word will surely override any popular trend that is rooted in compromise. Repentance is repentance.
 - iii. You see them at the end of these verses coming into agreement with God's word.
 - iv. In verse 5, He is saying, life is short, but the word of the Lord is for every generation. It never changes!

III. THE FIRST VISION (1:8-16)

- A. The twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month (Shebat) on our modern calendar would have been on *February 15, 519 BC* (1:7). This was three months after Zechariah's first message on repentance given in November. Five months earlier, on same day (24 Shebat), the rebuilding of temple resumed as the people were stirred by the prophesying of Haggai (Hag 1:14-15). *"On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah. (Zech. 1:7)*
- B. (Zech. 1:8-11) The First Vision of eight visions in one night. Yeah! *"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, and white. Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are." And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These are the ones whom the Lord has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth." So they answered the Angel of the Lord, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."*
- C. Zechariah in the dead of the night, not in a dream, but in a full-blown vision, fully attuned to God. He saw, he did not dream, He saw.
- D. After reading these verses we must consider the following first:
 - i. Who is the man?
 - ii. What is represented by the myrtle trees?
 - iii. What is the significance of the color of the horses?

- E. *"I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse."*
- i. The Man is the Lord Jesus Christ. Also in this verse, He is the angel of the Lord. Most all commentators agree on this. They agree they see two angels in this passage – The Angel of the Lord (or the man among the myrtle trees; (1: 8, 10) and the "the angel who talked with me" (1:9, 13-14) lets call him the interpreting angel who talked with Zechariah through the night visions to help him have clarity in what he was seeing.
 - ii. I believe it is so important that you begin to see at the very beginning these four groups interacting in this vision. It sets the tone for you to begin to see and identify how these visions progress and carry such meaning.
 - iii. The man on the red horse, who is the Angel of the Lord.
 - iv. The Prophet Zechariah.
 - v. The Interpreting angel, called "the angel who talked with me."
 - vi. The patrolling angels on a team of horses following the man.
- F. Question 2 – **What is represented by the myrtle trees?**
- i. *Myrtle trees:* The myrtle tree is symbolic of Israel. A myrtle is an evergreen tree that grows to eight feet. The lowly myrtle, rather than the proud, tall cedar, symbolizes Israel. Myrtle boughs were used to make booths for the Feast of Tabernacles, which prophetically speaks of Israel's salvation (Neh. 8:15). They were also worn by the bridegroom in ancient Israel.
 - ii. *Stood among the myrtle trees:* The man standing among the myrtle trees symbolized the Lord standing among the people of Israel, i.e., being deeply involved with them. He watches all that happens to them and even intercedes for God's mercy to be released on them (1:12).
- G. Question 3 – **What is the significance of the color of the horses?**
- i. The colors of the horses were red, sorrel (speckled), and white (1:8). The colors probably spoke of their mission. Angelic riders on horses patrolling the earth suggest a military context (1:10).
 - ii. *"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, and white." (Zech. 1:8)*
 - iii. **Four:** The number four is the number of the earth, or that which is worldwide. It speaks of the four corners of the earth coming under and being affected by these judgments (1:11; 6:5).

Bob Deering // 8.7.18

- iv. **Red horses:** The red horse speaks of bloodshed in war. John saw the rider on a red horse being given a sword to strike the earth with war (Rev. 6:4). The man riding a red horse symbolizes the impending judgment on the nations who mistreated Israel (1:21). Isaiah describes the Messiah coming to Israel in red garments, because it is the day of vengeance (Isa. 63:1-6).
- v. **Sorrel horses:** The Hebrew word *seruqim* translated “sorrel” can also be “speckled” or “mixed color.” The term cannot be known with certainty. It is probably a mixed color, or combination of color, signifying a mission combining judgment and mercy.
- vi. **White horses:** White is a symbol for victory, connected to going forth to conquer (Rev. 6:2)
- vii. **Black horses:** The black horse speaks of mourning created by a worldwide famine (Rev. 6:5).
- viii. **Pale horses:** The pale green horse is associated with physical death (Rev. 6:8). The Greek word *chloros* is translated as “pale” (ashen, or leprous yellow), and it represents the pallor of death and decay in a corpse.

H. **Jesus prays for mercy** for Israel in verse 12.

- i. *“Then the Angel of the Lord answered and said, “O Lord of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?” (Jesus is interceding for Israel, why is Jerusalem still in ruins and under the yoke of the gentiles.)*
- ii. *Vs 14-17 – “And the Lord (the Father) answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. So the angel who spoke with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, (the message begins) ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped--but with evil intent.” “Therefore thus says the Lord: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the Lord of hosts, “And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.” ’ “Again proclaim, saying, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: “My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The Lord will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem.””*
- iii. This will be fulfilled when this same Jesus, at His first coming they handed Him over to the gentiles to be crucified, who, after His resurrection, ascended back into the heavenly glory which he had with the Father before the world was, shall return in the same manner and under the circumstances described by this prophet in the last three chapters of this prophecy. Now in the one that they pierced, they will learn the fullness of the mercies of God, the Love of God, and the faithfulness of God.
- iv. **Surveyor’s line:** The surveyor’s line was a measuring tool used in building projects. Stretching out a measuring line over a city spoke of enlarging its boundaries. Here, it symbolizes rebuilding and enlarging Jerusalem and the temple. The work began in Zechariah’s generation, and again in 1948, but this prophecy will only be completely fulfilled at the time of the millennial kingdom.

- v. *"I am returning to Jerusalem...and a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. (Zech. 1:16)*
- vi. **Exceedingly angry:** God is angry with the nations that have cruelly oppressed Israel. They must acknowledge their sin and repent to thwart the judgment that is piling up.
- vii. **At ease:** Those anti-Semitic nations were at ease and at rest (1:11, 15), assuming that the God of Israel was not angry with them. They reasoned that since God's judgments were delayed, they would not be released (Eccl. 8:11). History proves differently, since the great empires of ancient history who cruelly struck Israel are no longer world powers.
- viii. **A little angry:** God being a *little angry* can refer to a short period of His anger, as in being angry for a "little while," instead of it describing the intensity of anger (1:2, 15). The Lord has never been angry long enough to end His relationship with Israel.

IV. SECOND VISION: FOUR HORNS AND FOUR CRAFTSMEN (1:18-21)

- A. Zechariah saw four horns representing the Gentile world powers that scattered Israel (1:18-19). The second vision gives more details about the Lord's message of comfort (1:13, 17). It shows us what God will do to the Gentile world powers with whom He was "exceedingly angry" (1:15)
- B. *"Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns [empires] that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." (Zech. 1:18-19)*
- C. **Horns:** Horns are symbolic of power (Deut. 33:17; 1 Sam. 2:10; 1 Kgs. 22:11; Ps. 18:2; 22:21; 75:10; 89:17, 24; 92:10; 112:9; 132:17; Jer. 48:25; Ezek. 29:21; Dan. 7:7-8, 24; 8:3, 5-6, 20-21; Rev. 5:6; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12). Animals defend themselves and attack with their horns.
- D. **What are these:** Zechariah asked the interpreting angel for understanding of the horns (1:18). The horns are the empires that have scattered Israel (1:19) and gouged them with their horns.
- E. Zechariah saw four craftsmen overthrowing the four horn-empires that attacked Israel (1:20-21).
- F. *"Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it." (Zech. 1:20-21)*
- G. **Four craftsman:** The craftsmen were builders with hammers that could easily shatter a brittle ram's horn. These craftsmen were God's tool of judgment to destroy the evil horn-empires. *Craftsman* is from the Hebrew word *harash*, which means "a worker in wood or metal."

- H. *To terrify and cast out:* These craftsmen-empires would terrify and cast down the horn-empires who scattered Israel. This has overtones of David's prophecy of God terrifying the nations in His anger (Ps. 2:5). God is determined to destroy the nations who gouge Israel with their horns.
- I. God will curse everyone who curses Israel (Gen. 12:3). Beware, nations of the earth, God is watching, even though He patiently waits for the right time to judge those who attack Israel.
- J. The fullness of this prophecy will occur at the end of the age (10:3-9; 12:3-9; 14:2-5, 12-16). The Antichrist's empire is certain to fail as it leads the nations to attack Israel (12-14).
- K. In the two visions of Zechariah 1, the prophet reveals God's zealous heart, calling Israel to repent, warning them of judgment, and promising their full salvation, restoration, and protection. Israel can be encouraged that the Lord is zealously watching all things that pertain to them.