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**The Journey Through Zechariah**  
**Session 7 Chapter 6**  
**The Chariots — The Horses — and The Branch**

**Thoughts before we begin:**

Here we have come to the eighth, and final vision, in which the prophet's eyes are opened to see the invisible chariots of God which are being sent forth for the overthrow of the Gentile world-powers, and to prepare the way for the Kingdom of the Messiah, which "shall never be destroyed." What a historic night! These chapters will affect all of history! These chapters are **HIS STORY** (history)! The government of God, the kingdom of God, Jesus will drive all evil off the planet, all that hinders His love, because He is a God of love! Things will line up with His Holy Word not our diverse opinions. It will take a season of time to familiarize ourselves with this word, but think where you will be in a year from now as you pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation according to Eph: (1:15-20).

Let's read and understand this scripture of prayer.

**Ephesians: 1:15-20**

**"15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,(Jesus) 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."**

**Prophetic dream before we begin:**

In 1989, when I first moved to Michiana, I was only planning to stay for 6 months. Before long, it was obvious that God had a different plan for me. In my first 3 months, I received my first prophetic dream, which I believe has significance to this vision. In the dream, I saw a long line of warhorses all in perfect alignment, arrayed in gold armor – head and body armor. They were in great shape, glistening with sweat, and very eager to move into battle. It was cold, because I could see the steam from their nostrils and smoke was rising from their bodies. For a period of time in my personal life, I worked for the Shilo Arabian horse farm in Hobart, Indiana. I handled horses that were in the 300-500 thousand dollar range. All the horses in my dream were in that range, and the line went on for almost forever! They were waiting for the command from the Lord. There were riders in gold mounted on every horse, but they were not the focus — it was the horses, the strong steeds. An epic battle was about to take place, the battle of good and evil, and I knew I was on the right side! I believe that God is awakening His bride all over the earth with dreams and visions.

**Let's go! Chapter 6!**

I. **The Eighth Vision:**

In the eighth vision, Zechariah saw the Lord remove all His enemies worldwide (6:1-8). He sees the final breakthrough of the kingdom at the end of the age (10:3-9; 12:3-9; 14:2-5, 12-16).

This vision gives us insight into the activity occurring in the angelic realm when war breaks out on the earth (Dan. 10:13, 20-21; Rev. 12:7-9).

- A. The eighth vision also develops the Lord's promise in the second vision (1:18-21) to judge the Gentile world powers, when He vowed to terrify and cast down the nations who scattered Israel. Israel is indestructible because of God's covenant with her. He has promised to make a full end of all nations that scattered Israel, but He will not make a full end of Israel. **"Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice..." (Jer. 30:11)**
- B. The first and last visions are like bookends of the eight-vision revelation received in one night. Important parts of the eighth vision link to the first vision (1:7-17). Both visions describe different colored horses going through the earth. There are four horses in the first vision and four chariots pulled by horses in the eighth vision. The theme of rest is in both visions (1:11; 6:8).
- C. In the first vision (1:7-17) Zechariah saw angelic riders on horses, with the Angel of the Lord (on a red horse) leading them. They were sent out to patrol the earth.
- D. Here in Zechariah's eighth and final vision, he sees the angelic horsemen of the first vision being replaced by angelic war chariots being sent out to execute God's judgment on the nations. The eighth vision is a much greater show of force than the first vision.
- E. First vision in Zechariah 1:8-10 – *"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. 9 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." 10 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."*
- F. Before we dive in, just a little understanding, the prophet Zechariah saw four mighty war chariots, between two bronze mountains. The chariots were drawn by teams of horses that were red, black, white and dappled. They went forth to execute God's judgment on the nations to prepare the way for Jesus' millennial reign.

## II. Zechariah 6:1-15

**"1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze. 2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses--strong steeds. 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 four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth. The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country." 7 Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, "Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth." So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. 8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, "See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country." 9 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 10 "Receive the gift from the captives--from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon--and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah. 11 Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'" ' 14 "Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the Lord for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God."**

### A. Breaking it down — Zechariah 6: 1-3

*"Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze. 2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses--strong steeds."*

1. Zechariah saw four mighty war chariots coming out from between two bronze mountains (6:1). The number four is the number of the earth, or that which is worldwide. It speaks of the four corners of the earth being affected by these judgments (1:11; 6:5).
2. **Four chariots:** These chariots were commissioned to overthrow Gentile world powers. Chariots suggest a military context, as the Lord declares war on His enemies.
3. **Mountains of bronze:** These symbolize God's judgment against sin (Rev. 1:15; 2:18).
4. **Four strong horses:** Each chariot is drawn by a team of strong horses (6:3, 7). Elijah and Elisha saw horses with heavenly chariots (2 Kings 2:11; 6:17). Jesus returns on a horse.

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5. **Four colors:** The colors of the horses probably spoke of their mission. The interpreting angel does not tell Zechariah the meaning of their colors. However, in Revelation 6, the meaning of the colors is given. The four sets of horses in Zechariah 1:8-11 and 6:1-8 seem connected to the four horses with similar colors in Revelation 6:1-8.
6. With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses—strong steeds. (Zech. 6:2-3)
  - a. **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). Zechariah saw a Man riding a red horse to judge the nations that oppressed Israel (1:21). Isaiah described the Messiah coming to Israel in red garments because it was the day of vengeance (Isa. 63:1-6).
  - b. **Black horses:** The black horse speaks of mourning caused by famine in Revelation 6:5.
  - c. **White horses:** The white horse speaks of the victory of conquest in Revelation 6:2.
  - d. **Dappled horses:** This color is translated by some as speckled (or spotted color horse). This may be similar to the sorrel colored horses (1:8), which are speckled or of a mixed color. The combination of colors signifies a mission combining judgment and mercy.

B. Zechariah 6:4-5

*"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 four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth."*

1. We see Zechariah completely cooperating with the vision to find the intention and meaning of the vision in verse four.
2. These **four spirits** are definitely in the midst of the counsel of God. This is a reality that is taking place around the throne of God. It is hard for us with, to wrap our minds around this since it has been taking place long before creation.
3. The angel answered that the **four chariots** are four spirits or angels who have a special station (place of authority) before the Lord. These angels are angels of judgment. The words the four spirits can be translated as "the four winds" of heaven. The four Gentile world powers, whose successive reign makes up the times of Gentiles, were stirred by the four winds of heaven to arise (Dan. 7:2-3).
4. **Lord of all the earth** implies that the angels are involved in a global purpose.

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5. **Going out** means that these four spirits that are aggressive in their task, being commissioned to “go out” to the nations. Behind the destruction of world empires are invisible angelic war chariots sent out by the Lord.

C. Zechariah 6:6-8

*“The one [chariot] with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.” 7Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.” So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. 8And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”*

1. Strong and eager were the war horses of God to accomplish their mission from God!
2. He said Go walk to and fro throughout the earth and they went off of His command.
3. This phrase is repeated three times to emphasize the global scope of God’s purpose and their commission. The Lord told the angelic warriors in the chariots who were “stationed” before Him (6:5) to go forth to confront the hostile Gentile world powers. Jesus has actively directed His heavenly armies throughout history and will continue to do so in His end-time plans. This should not be a surprise for us for it is throughout the Bible. *“13 Joshua...said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” 14 He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” (Joshua 5:13-14)*
4. The Horses:
  - a. Black horses going north: This may speak of the Greeks destroying the Persian army in 330 BC as tools of God’s judgment. Persia was spoken of as a northern army, and it was the empire that was oppressing Israel when Zechariah received these visions. Zechariah said that the chariot with the black horses “is” going north, indicating a current activity.
  - b. White horses go after them: Later, the white horses follow the black ones. White is the color of the horses that bring victory and purity to the nations. This may speak of God’s triumph in destroying the Greeks, or it may refer to a long delay until the white horses are involved in destroying the Antichrist’s northern armies (Rev. 19:11, 14). *“And the armies in heaven...followed Him [Jesus] on white horses. (Rev. 19:11-14)”*
  - c. Dappled horses go toward the south: The dappled, or spotted, horses go south in the direction of Egypt and the surrounding region to destroy Gentile resistance to the Lord.
  - d. Red horses: There is no mention of the red horses being commissioned to go forth, possibly because they had already fulfilled their purpose by participating in the overthrow of Babylon about twenty years before Zechariah had this vision (1:8).

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5. Rest to My Spirit: The chariots (black, white, and red) which release God's judgments in "toward the north country" will cause God's anger and judgments to "rest." Throughout history, the Spirit is pictured as continually striving with the nations (Gen. 6:3). His striving with and judging the nations will one day be finished. God seeks a resting place on earth where His judgments rest and His will is done on earth like it is in heaven.
  - a. The Spirit will rest when His judgments on the north are completed (6:8). It is from the north that the Antichrist's empire will rise up to attack Israel (Ezek. 38:14-16; 39:1-8)
  - b. *"You will come from your place out of the far north...a great company and a mighty army. You will come up against My people Israel...in the latter days..."* (Ezek. 38:15-16)
  - c. *"I will...bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel...You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops..."* (Ezek. 39:2-4)
  - d. Israel will be delivered from a northern enemy in the end times (Jer. 16:15; 23:8; 31:8; Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2; Joel 2:20). The Babylonian army coming against Israel from the north in 586 BC was a terrible hour for Israel, but it was also a prophetic picture of the Antichrist's army coming against Israel from the north. Many scriptures prophesying an army from the north attacking Israel have a dual fulfillment—initially by Assyria, Babylon, or Persia, and then by the Antichrist in the end times. Jeremiah prophesied of a mighty Babylonian army coming from the north to judge Israel (Jer. 1:13-15; 3:12, 18; 4:6; 6:1, 22; 10:22; 13:20; 15:12; 25:9). Jeremiah warned the Egyptians that they would be attacked from the north (Jer. 46:6, 10, 20, 24) and that Babylon would be destroyed from the north by the Medo-Persian army (Jer. 50:3, 9, 41). For more on the northern army see the following verses (Isa. 14:31; 41:25; Jer. 46:6, 10, 20, 24; 47:2; 50:3, 9, 26, 41, 46; 51:27, 48; Joel 2:20; Zeph. 2:13).
6. The eighth vision ends the night of visions with a note of triumph as the Spirit is seen resting from His work of judgment. This means that all the nations' resistance to God's kingdom being established on earth has been removed.

III. Joshua a sign of the coming Messiah: Zechariah 6:9-11

*"9 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 10"Receive the gift from the captive—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon—and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah. 11Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest."*

- A. The section has two parts: the symbolic crowning of Joshua (6:9-11), and a messianic prophecy of Jesus as the Branch (6:12-15)

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- B. Receive the gift: Zechariah was told to take the offering of silver and gold (6:11) that three Jewish exiles (previous captives) had brought from Babylon to financially help Zerubbabel's work on the temple. Zerubbabel completed the temple about three years later in March 516 BC (Ezra 6:15). Zechariah was told to take the offering of silver and gold from the visitors from Babylon and make a crown, and then set it on Joshua's head.
- C. This was symbolic of the Lord's promise to send the Messiah to Israel. Joshua's crowning prefigures the "Messiah-Branch" who will usher in the millennial kingdom. The crown was twice referred to as an "elaborate" crown (6:11, 14).
- D. After Zechariah placed the crown on Joshua, he was then told to give him a message about Jesus' future messianic role to build the temple and then rule from it.
- E. A messianic prophecy of Jesus as the Branch (6:12-15). The final oracle in the eight visions is here in Zechariah 6:12-15. All the other oracles had an interpreting angel to help Zechariah.

IV. Zechariah 6:9-13

*"9 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 10 "Receive the gift from the captive—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon—and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah. 11 Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 Then speak to him, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: 'Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD; 13 yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'"*

- A. Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah: These were Jewish men who lived in Babylon and had just arrived on a visit to Jerusalem.
- B. Zechariah was told to take the offering of silver and gold from the visitors from Babylon and make a crown, and then set it on Joshua's head.
- C. This was symbolic of the Lord's promise to send the Messiah to Israel.
- D. Joshua's crowning prefigures the "Messiah-Branch" who will usher in the millennial kingdom. The crown was twice referred to as an "elaborate" crown (6:11, 14).
- E. Zechariah was to go, the same day, to Josiah's house with the silver and gold.
- F. After Zechariah placed the crown on Joshua, he was then told to give him a message about Jesus' future messianic role to build the temple and then rule from it.
- G. Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH: Jesus the Branch—is the King (Jer. 23:5-6), a servant (Zech. 3:8), a Man (Zech. 6:12), and He is the Lord (Isa. 4:2). This parallels the fourfold picture of Jesus in the four Gospels.

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- H. These words were spoken to Joshua, but he understood that they applied to someone far greater than he. He had been told earlier that he was a prophetic “sign” (3:8) of the Branch. He understood that the crowning was symbolic of Another who is the King.
- I. The prophecy promises four things: first, that Jesus shall be a priest on a throne; second, that He shall build the temple; third, that He shall bear the glory and rule on His throne; fourth, that Gentiles who are far off shall help build the temple.

V. Things to consider:

- A. I am so blessed by this prophecy with hope and understanding. All of the earth will be govern by JESUS!!!! Jesus the Branch shall branch out progressively. Isaiah spoke of Jesus increasing in ordering and establishing the kingdom of God forever.
- B. *“7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)*
- C. Zechariah, for emphasis, says “Yes, He shall build the temple” (6:13). Jesus first built a spiritual temple (Jn. 2:29; Eph. 2:22) in this age; He will build a physical temple in Jerusalem in the age to come.
- D. Two very important scriptures to consider:
  - 1. *12 “I will set up your seed after you...13He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever”. (2 Sam. 7:12-13)*
  - 2. *“6 I heard Him speaking to me from the temple...7He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne...where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” (Ezek. 43:6-7)*
- E. He shall be a priest on His throne: The crowning points to Jesus as the King-Priest. In His person, He joins the two great offices of priest and king. Scripture speaks of a ruling in a temple four times (Zech. 6; Ezek. 43; 2 Sam. 7; Ps. 132). The placing of a crown on Joshua pictured the joining of the offices of Priest and King in Jesus.
- F. Remember: 14“Proclaim, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I am zealous for Jerusalem... 16I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house [the temple] shall be built in it.” (Zech. 1:14, 16)

VI. The Final two Verses:

*“14 Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the LORD for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15Even those who are far away shall come and build the temple of the LORD. Then you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you and this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Zech. 6:14-15)*



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- A. A memorial: The crown was put in the temple as a memorial for the men who gave the offerings to build the temple. The memorial was a pledge that the Messiah would come. Once placed in the temple, the crown took on great significance as a “memorial.” The crown is a reminder to others of the giving of those who had contributed silver and gold to build the temple.
- B. When Jesus comes to earth to rule, then Jews and Gentiles from afar will help build the temple (2:11; 8:22; Isa. 56:6-7; 60:4-17).
- C. Obedience: All these things will come to pass as God’s people diligently obey Him.
- D. You shall know that the Lord sent Me: When this all came to pass, Israel would know that the Lord had spoken through Zechariah.