



Structure

As we have observed before, the 8 night visions found in Zechariah 1 through 6 were visions received in a single evening by the prophet. They are organized as a chiasm, as shown below:

A – man on red horse & horses

B – 4 horns, 4 builders

C – rebuilding Jerusalem

D – High Priest Joshua

D* – Zerubbabel

C* – Flying scroll

B* – Evil removed

A* – Lord of whole earth

Today's lesson covers the final (8th) vision, which is strongly related to the first vision and caps off the series. In his book on Zechariah, Hermann Austel writes: "In the first vision the nations live in undisturbed quietness and God is disturbed and angry with them. In this vision the nations are judged and the Spirit of God is satisfied and at rest because his purpose has been accomplished." This 8 visions are followed by a critical oracle about the coming priest-king.

1. **Eight Vision — The Chariots (6:1-8)**: This final vision, together with the first vision, is a bookend for the series of 8 interlocking visions. The prophet sees four chariots coming out from between two bronze mountains, pulled by different colored horses.

— Most expositors argue that the two bronze mountains are Mount Zion and Mount Olivet, between which is the Kidron Valley. Another possibility is that they are the mountains formed in Zech. 14:4-5, which Jesus forms at his second coming to create a valley for an escape for the Jewish remnant (see Matt. 24:16). This valley (Joel 3:2) may also be where the enemies are destroyed.

— The colors of the horses don't exactly match those in the first vision. Remember, the point is likely NOT that the colors represent something, but that there are FOUR colors, FOUR chariots which are the FOUR spirits / winds of heaven, which further emphasizes God's sovereignty over the FOUR corners of the earth (or FOUR points on the compass).

— The chariots represent angelic beings as do the horses in the first vision. But in the first vision they report to the angel of the Lord (Yahweh), and now they report to the Lord (adon) of the whole earth. In both instances, this is the pre-incarnate Jesus. In Zech. 14:9, he is called the king over the whole earth.

— The chariots are ordered to walk about over the entire earth. The four horses of vision 1 did reconnaissance and reported back that the earth is at rest, which disquieted God. The chariots to the north country report back and it quiets God's spirit, likely because the Babylonian Empire fell.

NOTE: This vision speaks to the immediate circumstances and looks forward to the elimination of all of Israel's enemies.

2. **The Crowning of the Priest-King (6:9-15)**: The symbol of crowning Joshua the High Priest looks to Jesus Christ, our High Priest and King (Hebrews 9:11; Revelation 19:16). Jesus is a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:1-10, 6:20-7:28). Note verse 12 addresses "the man" (1st vision) and "the BRANCH" (4th vision) who will prosper in his ministry and build a temple, just as Joshua will prosper in his work and build a temple. The title BRANCH is messianic (Isaiah 4:2, 11:1; Jer. 23:5, 33:15) and emphasizes that from Jesus' humble beginnings he will grow into his role. Verse 15 confirms his priestly ministry will include Gentiles (cf. Micah 4:1).