

September 12, 2010  
"Zechariah's First Night Vision"  
Zechariah 1:7-17

The passage we will consider this morning records the first of eight visions. Zechariah received these visions from the LORD, all EIGHT of them, in one night! The date given for these visions is exactly five months from the day God's people started rebuilding the Temple (see Haggai 1:15) and exactly two months from the date God promised to "shake Heaven and Earth" and (among other things) destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms (Haggai 2:21-22). The prophet Daniel made similar prophecies, Daniel 2 & 7 ...

I. The occasion of these visions, an otherwise  
DISCOURAGING situation –

They were out of Babylon, God's Word proved true, they were back in Jerusalem, they were rebuilding the temple

1. Yet, resources were few – Haggai 2:16-17
2. Their numbers were small – Haggai 2:2
3. The Temple they were rebuilding was small – Haggai -2:3
4. They were still under Darius / Persian rule – Zechariah 1:1 & 7
5. God seemed to have promised otherwise –

"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: I will shake heaven and earth. <sup>22</sup> I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots and those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, everyone by the sword of his brother. (Haggai 2:21-22 NKJ)

II. The ease, the "resting quietly" state of the ungodly nations seems in direct contradiction to Haggai's prophecy just two months earlier –

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." <sup>11</sup> 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." (Zechariah 1:10-11 NKJ)

III. Before I go further though, it is important to explain the ELEMENTS of the vision –

1. A man riding a red horse - :8
2. Stood among myrtle trees (trees common in Israel) - :8
3. Behind him horses, red, sorrel and white - :8
4. There is an angel explaining the vision - :9
5. The man among the myrtle trees then explains about the other horses, the Lord has "sent" these "to walk to and fro throughout the earth" – like military scouts / spies - :10
6. This term "the Angel of the LORD" is applied in other parts of Scripture to pre-incarnate visions or visits of our Lord Jesus Christ -:11
7. The earth is said, according to these scouts to be "resting quietly" they are at ease in their sin - :11
8. Then there is the important question, from the Angel of the LORD (Christ) to the LORD of Hosts (God the Father) and there is an answer- :12 -17

IV. The important question "HOW LONG ...?"

1. Note no time frame is given in response, God does not answer WHEN He will have mercy on His people - :12 or WHEN He will judge the godless nations - :15 as He had promised in Haggai 2:21

2. Note: the WHEN / HOW LONG question is still discussed in the New Testament –

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:6-8 NKJ)

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was

said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number* of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. (Revelation 6:9-11 NKJ)

3. *Individual nations / Gentile kingdoms have been judged / defeated already –*

"This is the interpretation of *each* word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;<sup>27</sup> TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;<sup>28</sup> PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.<sup>31</sup> And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old. (Daniel 5:26-31 NKJ)

4. *God's Kingdom is in a process of growth –*

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,<sup>32</sup> "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32 NKJ)

*In the end God's Kingdom reigns -*

"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2:44 NKJ)

V. *What should we (TODAY) take from this vision and the LORD of Hosts' answer?*

1. *See in the VISION as a whole:*

*God's Knowledge, He is working behind enemy lines*

*God's Sovereign power- He is LORD of Hosts*

*God's Presence – He was with His people then, He is with us today –*

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:20 NKJ)

2. *Note, His "zeal" for His people-*

So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, `Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. (Zechariah 1:14 NKJ)

*This is surely a "zeal" even for their purity –*

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business.<sup>15</sup> When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.<sup>16</sup> And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"<sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." (John 2:13-17 NKJ)

*This is why God allows us sometimes to endure hardship, even when the ungodly seem to prosper –*

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. (Romans 8:28 NKJ) Psalm 73

3. *See His "anger" at the nations –*

I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped-- *but* with evil *intent*." (Zechariah 1:15 NKJ)

4. *His promise finally to PROSPER Jerusalem – Zechariah 1:16-17; Revelation 21:9-27*

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."<sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,<sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.<sup>12</sup> Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:<sup>13</sup> three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.<sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.<sup>15</sup> And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.<sup>16</sup> The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.<sup>17</sup> Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according* to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.<sup>18</sup> The construction of its wall was *of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass.<sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,<sup>20</sup> the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.<sup>21</sup> The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.<sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.<sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light.<sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.<sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).<sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.<sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Revelation 21:9-27 NKJ)