

The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions





Redemptive History





Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period¹

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	Declaration of Cyrus (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
Darius I	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	

1. Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament, John H. Walton, 1994, p. 70



Night Visions

- Series of portraits
- Each with symbolic imagery
- Angel of the Lord - Tour Guide
- Zechariah observing
- Zechariah participating





Zechariah 1:18-21 (ESV)

18 And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! **19** And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these?” And he said to me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.” **20** Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. **21** And I said, “What are these coming to do?” He said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it.”



four and four

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- lifted my eyes and behold - vision change
- four horns (קרְנוֹת)

 - symbol of strength
 - power of nations

- why four?
 - real nations?
 - Assyria, Babylon, Persia , Greece or Rome - future?
 - scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem
 - Northern and Southern Kingdom
 - Jerusalem - home of the Temple
 - four cardinal directions (north, south, east, west)?
 - totality

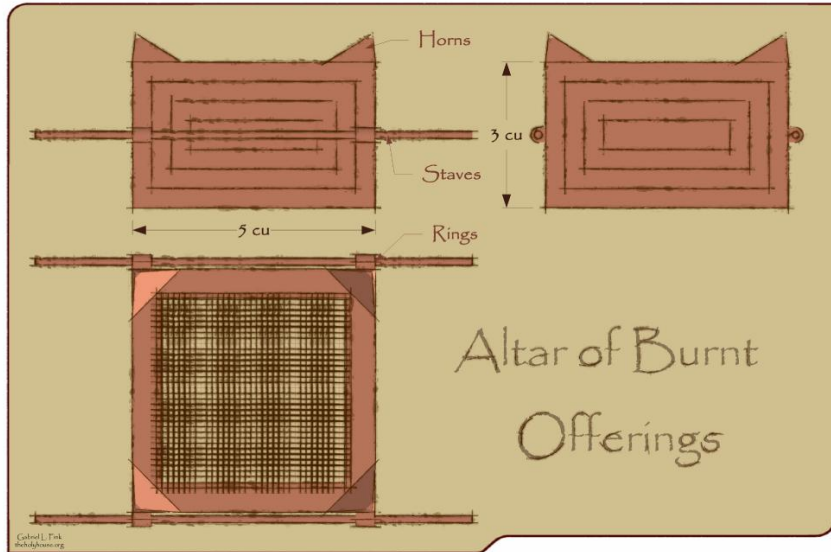


four and four

- who are the craftsmen?
 - other nations?
 - not warriors
 - ultimately divine judgment
- why judge them?
 - the intensity of the scattering - no one raised his head
 - wicked nations that served God's righteous purpose

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four and four



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the bronze altar

- You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. **And you shall make horns for it on its four corners;** its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze. You shall make pots for it to receive its ashes, and shovels and basins and forks and fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze. You shall also make for it a grating, a network of bronze, and on the net you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. And you shall set it under the ledge of the altar so that the net extends halfway down the altar. And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. And the poles shall be put through the rings, so that the poles are on the two sides of the altar when it is carried. You shall make it hollow, with boards. As it has been shown you on the mountain, so shall it be made. (Exodus 27:1-8 ESV)

four and four

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- the bronze altar

- total impact of sin on the world - the fall
- total effect of the sacrifice for the people
- relationship to Zechariah 1:19
 - central theme of the Temple in Zechariah
 - four craftsman
 - redemptive work of God in contrast to earthly power of the nations
- terrify ... cast down
 - craftsmen?
 - the image of the altar from the tabernacle
 - different work for craftsmen
- altar ... temple - work of redemption in Christ
 - ultimately the work of redemption that casts down the wickedness of the nations
 - restores Judah in Christ





four and four

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:

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(Zechariah 1:20-21 ESV)

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
**and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;**
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:1-4 ESV)