

Text: Zechariah 1:18-21 (Hebrew 2:1-4)

Title: Our Hope in Times of Trouble

Thesis: Our only hope in times of trouble is that our Lord is constantly at work restraining and conquering all of his and our enemies.

Intro: Where is your hope in times of trouble?

- I. The Vision explained.
 - A. The Four Horns
 1. Probably Bulls not just horns.
 2. The Work of the horns: scattered and humiliated Israel.
 3. The identity of the horns
 - a. The four kingdoms of Daniel 2,7
 - b. The totality of Israel's enemies in every direction (Ezra 4; Neh.4)
 - c. Probably a dual understanding
 - B. The Four Craftsmen
 1. Construction type workers with heavy hammers and saws.
 2. The Work of the craftsmen.
 - a. Terrify the Bulls/horns
 - b. Cut off the horns of the nations (i.e. make them powerless)
 3. The identity of the craftsmen
 - a. The four kingdoms of Daniel 2,7.
 - b. The totality of God's instruments
 - c. Probably a dual reference
 - C. Point of the vision: The Lord is Israel's only hope in times of trouble as he restrains and conquers her enemies.
- II. The Biblical doctrine: Our only hope in times of trouble is that our Lord is constantly at work restraining and conquering all of his and our enemies.
 - A. GE 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: [2] And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
 - B. PS 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; [3] Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.
 - C. ISA 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.
 - D. ISA.59:19b When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.
 - E. In Psalm 110 we see The Lord is the Great smith of God who is restraining and conquering all of his and our enemies.
- III. Application to the Church
 - A. When you feel hopeless remember you are not hopeless.
 - B. When you feel helpless remember you are not helpless.
 - C. When your enemies rise up against you, remember that the Lord your God is at work cutting off their power and bringing judgment upon them.

Conclusion: Zechariah 1:18-21 teaches that your only hope in times of trouble is that your Lord is constantly at work restraining and conquering all of his and your enemies. In times of trouble fear not for he is with you.