In case you haven’t noticed, there are some odd things happening in the world. Fires are still burning in California and some in the state are calling the fires the “new normal.” In other parts of the country a deep freeze is patrolling the states with frigid temperatures. I just read this week that over 90% of the United States did not even reach the freezing point of 32 degrees. Now my question is this. Who is controlling this? Who determines what the weather does? Who determines where the winds blow and where fires burn and where the snow flies? The Bible says this is all controlled by a Sovereign God.

God is completely sovereign over everything that is taking place in the world, the positive and the negative. He is completely in sovereign control over the good and the bad; the blessings and the cursing’s.

**When we come to this text, it is clear that He is in sovereign control over everything connected to Israel.** He carefully watches over Israel and He specifically watches how nations treat Israel and there will come a point in time when He will pour out His blessings on Israel and her land and He will punish all nations who did negative things against Israel.

That truth was seen by Zechariah the prophet in a series of eight visions he received one night. In one night he received eight visions and the final one is in Zechariah 6 and it is the vision of the four chariots.

We come now to the final vision that Zechariah got in one night. It is the vision of the four chariots.

**Verse 1** begins with Zechariah using the adverb “again.” Again he lifted up his eyes and sees another vision. This is the final vision and it is an important vision. He is actually seeing this with his own eyes.

Back in 1974, President Nixon left the White House by climbing into a helicopter and flying away. Mary and I were there. We were in Washington and we literally saw that with our own eyes. We did not see it on the news. We saw it in person. That is the way it was for Zechariah. We see these visions through the Scriptures, but he was there and saw it with his own eyes:

**GOD IS IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING ON EARTH AND EVENTUALLY THE GOD KING WILL RULE ON THIS EARTH AND BRING ABOUT HIS BLESSINGS AND PEACE TO ISRAEL; BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, HIS ANGELIC FORCES WILL POUR OUT WRATH ON GENTILE NATIONS WHO HAVE HURT ISRAEL.**

Non-Jewish nations would be very wise to take a serious look at these visions of Zechariah, because if you mistreat Israel, the news for you is not good and the future is not bright. Now there are six parts to this amazing final vision:
PART #1 – The description of the vision. 6:1-3

Now let’s remember that these visions have much to do with those nations who have lifted up their forces against Israel (1:21). We also know that in the earlier visions, that one job of the four horses was to patrol the earth concerning Israel and those nations who appeared to be peaceful and quiet (1:11). We may recall God was angry with nations who were at ease who had demeaned Israel (1:15).

This vision is important because it shows that everything is operating on this earth according to God’s sovereignty. God is directing sovereign powers to carry out His Word and will.

Sight #1 - Zechariah saw four chariots. 6:1a

Now this certainly has some similarities and also some differences to the first vision. The first vision featured four different colored horses (1:8) and this final vision features four different colored horses pulling chariots. In both visions the Lord commands them to do something and they carry out their responsibilities. However, in this final vision there are no riders mentioned. One major difference between the two is the emphasis on the mountains. In the first vision the emphasis is on myrtle trees in a ravine and this eighth vision is on mountains made of bronze.

Now the chariots are coming in succession. The Hebrew word for “chariots” is that which often refers to a war chariot. Sometimes it is used to transport individuals of high rank like Absalom (II Sam. 15:1), but most of the time these chariots were the ultimate military war machine. So these chariots are not showing up just to take people for a ride at a picnic. They are coming with a war mission and they are coming right out of heaven. We may remember in Ezekiel 1 that four living creatures came with chariot-like power that carried out the will of God all over the world.

Now some have said that these four are the same four world kingdoms and powers that Daniel predicted would dominate Israel (Babylon, Medio-Persia, Greece and Rome). This would explain why two went to the north and one to the south. Medio-Persia and Greece basically attacked from the north and Rome initially attacked from the south.

However, we do not think this is the case for two reasons: 1) They are identified as the four spirits of heaven, not the four beasts (Zech. 6:5); 2) They have geographical locations that do not coincide with the four beasts of Daniel 2 & 7 but they do coincide with Daniel 11.

Sight #2 - Zechariah saw four chariots coming between two mountains. 6:1b

There is a definite article “the” before “two mountains” meaning specific mountains. Since Zechariah is in Jerusalem, there are three main mountains: 1) Mount Zion; 2) Mount of Olives; 3) Mount Moriah.

Now since the chariots are coming between two mountains in a valley, most believe they are coming between Mount of Olives and Mount Zion. But what this does show is that this clearly has to do with Israel, Jerusalem and her land.
Sight #3 - Zechariah saw four chariots coming between two bronze mountains. 6:1c

Nowhere else in the Bible do we read something concerning “mountains of bronze.” There have been many guesses as to what that means. But one thing we can say and that is if you had a mountain made of bronze, no one would be able to scale it or climb it.

Now bronze is a noun that often shows up in Scripture. Often times it is used in connection to judgment. For example, sin offerings were made on a large altar in the tabernacle that was overlaid with bronze (Ex. 27:2-6). Christ’s feet of “bronze” is often used to symbolize that He will use His feet in judgment to stamp out evil (Rev. 1:15; 2:18).

Now the reference to the mountains being “bronze” would indicate that judgment will come from these insurmountable and unconquerable mountains.

God will literally stamp out evil at this very sacred place in Israel. This will be the place where He will judge and when He does, Israel will indeed be a holy land.

Sight #4 - Zechariah saw four horses pulled by four different colored horses. 6:2-3

In my mind, horses and mountains go together. Now we were first introduced to colored horses in Zechariah 1:8 in the first vision. As we saw, these were agents of God, specifically accountable to Jesus Christ, who patrolled the earth in regard to having peace and taking peace.

We also know in Revelation 6:2-8 we are introduced to four colored horses–white; red; black and ashen. Merrill Unger said that he thought the white horses indicate total victory (Rev. 6:2; 19:11, 15); the red horses stand for bloodshed (Rev. 6:4); the black horses stand for ferocious judgment (Rev. 6:5-6) and the ashen or dappled horses represent different kinds of death (Rev. 6:8) (Zechariah, pp. 102-103).

These horses are clearly connected to pouring out God’s wrath on the Gentile world in the early days of the seal judgments during the Great Tribulation.

So we may conclude that these horses are used in carrying out God’s judgments on this earth:

Horse #1 - The first chariot had red horses. 6:2a

Red is the color of blood and in Revelation is connected to war. What is interesting about this context is in verse 6 we read that the other horses go forth out of the country, but the red doesn’t. That red horse and its rider seem to stay close to Israel while the others carry out their responsibilities elsewhere.

Horse #2 - The second chariot had black horses. 6:2b

Black is the color of judgment and in Revelation it has to do with famine that leads to starving.
**Horse #3** - The third chariot had **white** horses. 6:3a

White is the color of conquest and in Revelation it refers to false Christ’s who will for a time seem to conquer.

**Horse #4** - The fourth chariot had strong **dappled** horses. 6:3b

This could be a reference to the pale horse in Revelation that leads to death. Charles Feinberg said these horses collectively are responsible for war, bloodshed, calamity, distress, victory, joy, plagues and pestilence (Zechariah, p. 299).

This is what most people don’t understand. Times of prosperity and happiness are blessings of God and times of disaster and destruction are also from God.

**PART #2** – The explanation of the vision. 6:4-8

According to **verse 4**, when Zechariah saw this, he immediately asked the angel what is this? The antecedent of the pronoun “these” in **verse 4** refers to the chariots. People who think like Zechariah want to know what God’s Word actually means. They are not content to see it or read it at some shallow level; they want to know the exact meaning of it. The angel gives his explanation and interpretation:

**Explanation #1** - The four chariots pulled by horses are the four **spirits** of heaven. 6:5a

The Hebrew word “spirits” may also be translated “wind” or “breath.” If we track that theme through Scripture we learn a great deal.

In Psalm 104:4 we read God “makes the winds His messengers, flaming fire His ministers.” In Revelation 7:1 we read “I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth…”.

From these passages we learn that God has an angelic arsenal at His disposal that is responsible to carry out judgment edicts that God sends from heaven. These four are that. They go any direction God wants like the wind and they carry out God’s will.

**Explanation #2** - The four spirits carry out what God wants done on the **earth**. 6:5b

Do not miss this. The job of these spirits is to carry out God’s will on earth. God is sovereign over everything in the world and everything on earth. God can use His angelic forces to bless or curse. They will do what God wants them to do for a nation, for a church and for an individual.

The word “Lord” is Adonai, which means He is the master and ruler over all the earth. God gives specific assignments to these angels to carry out His judgments on the earth, positive and negative.
Now what we may observe is that the specific direction at this point is north and south and not east and west. So we will assume that this is a point in time when the focal point of God is aimed straight at those powers to the north and the south.

We suspect that this coincides with Daniel 11:40-45 that describes what God is doing during the days of the Antichrist. Notice verse 40, the emphasis on chariots. God will cause nations to the north of Israel and to the south of Israel to move against Israel and that will bring the Antichrist into the Land of Israel.

**Explanation #3** - The one with the black horses goes to the north country. 6:6a

The north country certainly would include Russia. God will sovereignly stir Russia to move toward Israel’s land.

**Explanation #4** - The one with the white horses goes after them. 6:6b

It would appear that the white horses were a follow-up judgment behind the black horses. So what we see is that double horse judgments are heading to the north. We know from Scripture that nations from the north along with Russia will come against Israel.

**Explanation #5** - The one with the dappled horses goes to the south country. 6:6c

Now the south country would be Egypt. Egypt has always been a thorn in Israel’s side. She is one of her most hateful enemies.

Now it is clear that the two directions stressed are north and south, which stands to reason when discussing Israel’s land and what God will do in the future. God will use north and south nations to bring the Antichrist right into Jerusalem.

According to verse 7, these strong ones are eager to go out and patrol the earth and carry out the will of God. They are eager to get this show on the road. They want to clean things up so that Jesus Christ will come and reign on this earth.

**Explanation #6** - Those who went to the north carried out God’s wrath. 6:8

There are spirit beings whose job it is to carry out universal judgments all over the world by decree and sanction of God. God sends His agents to carry out His wrath assignments.

Now carefully observe that verse 8 says that Zechariah saw those going north appease the wrath of God. In Ezekiel 38-39 there is a graphic description given about a coalition of nations coming from the north against Israel that includes Russia that will be destroyed by God. God specifically says He will use His own weapons to do it (Ez. 38:22). God says that He will kill so many people that it will take all people of Israel working seven months to bury the bodies (Ez. 39:13).
This is what Ezekiel is seeing here. This will occur just before Jesus Christ is anointed as King, which explains the next part of this.

PART #3 – Zechariah was instructed to take precious metals from families and make a crown and put it on Joshua’s head as high priest. 6:9-11

Now according to verse 9, the same day that Zechariah’s visions ended, Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah arrived to Jerusalem with gifts from those who were still in Babylon. Zechariah was instructed to go the same day and get their gifts.

Although these Jews did not initially decide to relocate, they were very interested in Israel’s home land and what was taking place so they made the move later and God wanted Zechariah to go to the house of Josiah and collect an offering.

Many Jews, for example, live in the USA, but they are always interested in what is happening with Israel in Israel. In fact, just this week one of the most famous Jews, Jerry Seinfeld, was in Israel. Jewish people have an innate interest in the Promised Land and in Jerusalem.

God came to Zechariah and told him to go to Josiah’s house where these three were. Josiah was the son of Zephaniah and he obviously was a well-respected man in Jerusalem. What God told Zechariah to do was collect an offering of silver and gold (v. 10).

According to verse 11, God told Zechariah to make a crown with silver and gold and put it on Joshua’s head. Now crowns were typically worn by kings, not priests, and Joshua was a high priest and not a king. We may remember that the one who was governor in the Davidic line was Zerubbabel, but God told Zechariah to put this crown on Joshua, the high priest.

When Zechariah did this, it probably was shocking. No one had ever heard of a High Priest/King. Furthermore, by doing this the Persian government could have seen this as some act of insurrectionism, in that they were trying to crown their own king.

But there was far-reaching prophecy here. Because One would come after the judgment who would be a King and Priest.

PART #4 – Zechariah is to inform Joshua that a God/man named “branch” will build the Temple and will rule on His throne as the King/Priest. 6:12-13

Carefully notice what God says here at the beginning of verse 12, “behold a man.” These words indicate God would become a man. There will be a God/man on earth. This One who would be the Sovereign King and Holy High Priest, would be a real God/man.

Now this is critical because what we learn here is that this is a symbolic gesture. The noun “branch” is a Messianic title (Is. 4:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12). So this is all a symbolic picture that one day the God-Savior-Messiah-King will come to Israel who will be both King and Priest.
This crowning was symbolic of the fact that the Messiah would come after the judgments are poured out and He will branch out from His own land Israel.

There are two parts to this prophecy. The King would be born in the land and ultimately it would be that King who would build the Temple. Well the first part has been fulfilled, but we are waiting for the second part.

The Targum, which is the Aramaic translation and paraphrase, translates this—“Behold the Man, Messiah in His name, who is to be revealed” (Ibid., p. 301).

Verse 13 says He will bear “the honor” and the majesty as God. He will sit on His throne as the King Priest and He will be the One who will bring peace to the earth. Peace is only possible when the two offices are operating—righteous King and Holy Priest.

PART #5 – The crown will be a memorial of the ultimate crowning of the ultimate King. 6:14

Zechariah’s audience would understand the symbolism of this. The crown would be removed from Joshua’s head and placed in the Temple as a reminder that one day the Messiah will come and will wear that crown.

This crown promises that One day a King will come who will wear the crown and He will be the One who will bring peace to the world. There is only one who can fulfill this role and that King Priest is Jesus Christ (Psalm 110; Hebrews 7).

PART #6 – This will happen when Gentiles from far away will bring their wealth to rebuild the Temple. Is. 60:5, 9, 11; 61:6b; Hag. 2:7-8

Gentiles will be important to the rebuilding of the Temple. Just recently, a Rabbi said that by making Jerusalem the capital of Israel, a necessary event has happened that bring Gentiles to share in the matters pertaining to Israel. People from all over the world will one day stream to Israel to see the King, the Temple and the Crown.

Now what we see from this text is that God controls what is going on in the big world and in our world. He can shower us with His blessings or His cursings. The key to this is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the key to peace with God and having the peace of God.