

Pentwater Bible Church

Zechariah

Message 12 - The Vision of the Four Chariots

July 21, 2013



The Chariots of Zechariah's Vision by Gustav Dore Cir. 1880

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The Book of Zechariah
Message Twelve

The Eighth Vision: The Horses and War Chariots

July 21, 2013

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Painting by Sharlene Lindskog-Osorio

THE EIGHTH VISION OF THE CHARIOTS

Zechariah 6:1-8

¹And again I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. ²In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; ³and in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grizzled strong horses. ⁴Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? ⁵And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four winds of heaven, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. ⁶The chariot wherein are the black horses goeth forth toward the north country; and the white went forth after them; and the grizzled went forth toward the south country. ⁷And the strong went forth, and

sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. ⁸Then cried he to me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, they that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country (ASV 1901).

THE CHARIOTS BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS

Zechariah 6:1

¹And again I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass (ASV 1901).

Zechariah is once again made aware of another vision in his spiritized state wherein communication of the spiritual realm is imparted directly to his spirit. These visions bypassed the physical earthly communication mediums of ears eyes and voice and directly sent the message to his spirit. This is the final vision in the set of eight he received one spring evening in 520 B.C.

THE VISIONS OF ZECHARIAH

<u>Number</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
1	1:7–17	Four Horsemen	Jehovah's Sovereignty in Israel's Restoration
2	1:18–21	Four Horns	The Gentile Persecution and Dispersion of God's People
3	2:1–13	The Surveyor	Preparation for Jerusalem's Restoration
4	3:1–10	The Priest	Renewal of Israel's Priestly Ministry
5	4:1–14	The Menorah	Messiah as Priest and King
6	5:1–4	The Flying Scroll	Judgment for Covenant Disobedience

7	5:5–11	The Ephah	The Return of Evil to Babylon, Its Place of Origin
8	6:1–8	The Chariots	Jehovah’s Final and Universal Dominion

The Hebrew word translated as behold is *hinneh*, which means to “look up”, or “watch this.” What Zechariah sees are four war chariots coming from between two brass mountains. In the Hebrew text the mountains are given the definite article of “The.” This means that the prophet knew these mountains and his early readers in 520 B.C would also have know their identity as well. Since this book and these visions are about the Jews restoration, correction and God’s vengeance on their oppressors in Jerusalem they are most assuredly Mount Zion and The Mount of Olives. The area between the mountains is clearly the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Hebrew for *Jehovah Judges*) known today as the Kidron Valley.

Judgment of the Gentile nations who have oppressed Israel will be from the capital of the Jewish homeland and God’s earthly dwelling place Jerusalem. The fact that they are said to be brass has much significance in the Bible. Brass, which is an alloy of copper and zinc, was not known till the thirteenth century A.D. What is designated by this word in Scripture is copper or bronze. Bronze is a mixture of copper and tin and was known to the ancients. It has significance in that the Hebrew word for bronze is *nechoshet*. It is a play-on-words for the word for serpent, which is *nachash*.

In Hebrew, words are formed from a root of three letters. The foundation of the “root” for many Hebrew words yields words that are similar in nature. For example the Hebrew words to rule *malach*, king, *melech* and kingdom, *malkoot* all have the same three-root letters מ ל כ Mem, Lamed and Kaf Sofiet. The word *nachash* is the same with the following three letters as the root ש ת נ Nun Chet and Shin. From these three root letters the Hebrew language morphs into many words that have a similar nature in addition to the exact same root. The Hebrew word for bronze is *nechoshet*. In Numbers 21: 9 Moses made a bronze serpent to put and end to the snakes that were killing the children of Israel because they spoke out against Gods plan for them. The Hebrew word *nechoshet nachash* means a bronze serpent. Jesus referred to this life saving *nechoshet nachash* in John 3: 14-15 when He identified with it was as Himself being the savior of the world. We see how the various terms have multiple ties to different passages in the Bible. The serpent is no different. It has the quality for the etymology of the Hebrew words as being shiny or luminous. The Hebrew word for the bronze serpent became *nechushtan* in II Kings 18: 4, which also has the same three root letters. This idea is carried out into the New Testament where Satan is cast as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11: 14). The root letters (word) also morph into a verb meaning, “to practice divination” or “observe astrological signs” as in Genesis 30: 27, 44: 5, 15; Leviticus 19: 26; Deuteronomy 18: 10). This gives us further

insight of the nature of the serpent and Satan first introduced in the plain text. Ancient pagan Near Eastern divination frequently made use of a serpent. The use of bronze is frequently used as a symbol of judgment upon sin. Therefore the imagery used here is describing judgment upon sin coming to Jerusalem at a future date. In the context of the previous seven visions we can see that this is a judgment of God upon the Gentiles who have persecuted the Jews for hundreds of years. This judgment will be as described by the God through the prophet Joel.

Joel 3:2 (4:2 Hebrew Tenach)

² I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will execute judgment upon them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations: and they have parted my land (ASV 1901).

The judgment will be in two stages, *One* will be the end of the Campaign of Armageddon and *Two*, the sheep and goat judgment by Jesus in the same valley after the Tribulation during the seventy-five day interval.

THE HORSES IN THE VISION

Zechariah 6:2-3

*²In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses;
³and in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grizzled strong horses (ASV 1901).*

The horses in this the last of the eight visions is complementary to the first vision. They can be viewed as opening and closing the set of visions or otherwise they can be known as the bookends. The horses are hitched to the war chariots ready to execute divine judgment on all the nations of the world. Psalm 68:17 says “*The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place*” (KJV). There are multiple horses hitched to each chariot indicating the strength of this judgment. First, both visions demonstrate four principal objects each. Vision one describes four horses (and presumably horsemen), whereas vision eight speaks of four chariots, each of which has horses attached to it. There is some difference in the color of the horses between the two visions. In the first vision they are red (two of them), sorrel, and white. In the last vision they are red, black, white, and variegated. Both visions signify servants of Jehovah who go forth under His direction executing judgment. This vision is clearly an indication of Jehovah’s strength and effort to extract vengeance.



The Battle of Chariots from ABC parish.blogspot.com

The red horses symbolize war and bloodshed as in:

Revelation 6:4

“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword “ (KJV).

The black horses harnessed to the second chariot symbolizes famine and death as in:

Revelation 6:5-6

“⁵And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (KJV).

The white horses symbolize victory and triumph as in Revelation 6:2 where it represents the Antichrist’s temporary victory:

“² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer” (KJV).

The dappled strong horses hitched to the fourth chariot symbolizing death in a more direct divine means than famine as in the black horses. This parallels:

Revelation 6:8

“⁸ And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth (KJV).

THE MALAKH HADDOBHER BI EXPLAINS THE VISION

Zechariah 6:4-7

⁴Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? ⁵And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four winds of heaven, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. ⁶The chariot wherein are the black horses goeth forth toward the north country; and the white went forth after them; and the grizzled went forth toward the south country. ⁷And the strong went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth (ASV 1901).

Zechariah again asks the angel that talked with him (*malakh haddobher bi*) what the meaning of this vision was. The angel immediately begins to share the meaning of the vision as judgment going out over the entire earth. That is symbolized by the four winds and the north and south. The four winds, which stand before the Lord in Heaven, are a symbol for the Lord's direct control of events on the earth. We see in the New Testament Christ controlling the weather to the astonishment of His apostles (Matthew 8:26). The winds are symbolic as are the chariots. The north and south indicate the nations to the north and south that have severely persecuted Israel for hundreds of years. Some of those in the eastern hemisphere are: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Russia, Germany and all the Moslem nations near them.

Looking back on a period about two and a half thousand years this small nation of people have been “scattered” and “tossed” about, by the Gentile nations, but always preserved from being destroyed from off the earth, and without losing its national characteristics and identity. The Lord God swore that so long as the sun and the ordinances of the moon and the stars continue to be present in the sky, Israel would continue as a nation.

Jeremiah 31:35-16

³⁵Thus saith Jehovah, who giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, who stirreth up the sea, so that the waves thereof roar; Jehovah of hosts is his name: ³⁶If these ordinances depart from before me, saith Jehovah, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever (ASV 1901).

The essence of this prophecy is that God will restore Israel and take sin from the entire earth in judgment. God's judgments shall be completely meted out, and anti-Christian and anti-Jewish world powers will be finally overthrown to usher in the glorious Kingdom of Christ, whom God the Father has invested with all power and dominion and glory, "that all nations and languages should serve Him." His dominion is an everlasting dominion (Daniel 4:3), "and His Kingdom shall never be destroyed." (Daniel 7:14)

Following the destruction of Antichrist and the False Prophet at the end of the Great Tribulation God will set up His Kingdom on earth as Jesus promised and taught His apostles to pray. "⁹ Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10 KJV).

NEXT WEEK: THE CORONATION OF JOSHUA

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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