

“The Chariots of God”
Zechariah 6:1-8
The Eighth Vision: The Four Chariots

A “visionary window” into the sovereign power of God over all of history.

1. The Vision – Its Parts and Their Significance

(1) Four Horse-drawn Chariots *“Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold,
four chariots came out from between two mountains.
And the mountains were mountains of bronze.”*

- Representative of Angelic Majesties

- “These are going out to the four winds of heaven” The range of their influence: worldwide
- “These are the four winds of heaven going forth”

The chariot – an image of worldly military might in that day. Here: divinely powerful forces
The four chariots – Representative of *myriads* of angelic majesties!

- Representative of Judgments God brings upon those kingdoms opposed to Him

- **Red** – the color of blood – points to war and bloodshed
- **Black** – famine and death, sorrow
- **White** – complete victory – as the ministers of divine judgment
- **Dappled** or speckled – pestilence and other fatal plagues

(2) Their Point of Origin *“from between two mountains...of bronze”
“going out...after presenting themselves
before the Lord of all the earth.”*

- Jerusalem, and the Temple of God

- The two mountains: Zion (to the west) and the Mount of Olives (to the east)
- The Valley of Jehoshaphat in between – closest access point to the Temple
- “mountains of bronze” – denote the immovable firmness of the place where God dwells

- The Throne of God in His Temple: The “center of the world”

(3) The Authority and Power behind them *“the Lord of all the earth”*

(4) Their Mission

- Immediate: *“the chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country,
the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones
toward the south country.”*

**The subduing of two great world powers
– enemies of the people of God**

- Babylon
- Egypt

Indicative of God’s power to subdue *all* of His enemies

- Ultimate *“When the strong horses came out,
they were impatient to go and patrol the earth.
And he said, ‘Go, patrol the earth.’”*

- Angelic majesties zealous to accomplish
all of God’s purposes in the world

- The Lord of the whole earth gives the command. His purpose is invincible!

- Mission Accomplished! *“Then he cried to me,
‘Behold, those who go toward the north country
have set my Spirit at rest in the north country.’”*

- God’s wrath appeased!

“set my Spirit at rest” cf. Ezek. 5:13; 16:42

- Fulfilled about 3 years after the prophecy.

Babylon revolted against the Persian rule and was completely destroyed by Darius.

2. The Vision – Its Meaning and Applications

(1) All the flow of history is determined by the hand of God.

- At the heart of His purpose and plan is the redeeming of a people for Himself.
- All events are subservient to that great purpose!

(2) The enemies of Israel and the Church shall be punished.

- The immediate application was to Babylon and Egypt
- The subduing of all of the Gentile world powers to be inevitably accomplished.

(3) The Church’s true strength: Jesus – the Lord of all the earth – in her midst!

- Superior divine strength amid apparent weakness.

(4) At the cross, all of God’s wrath toward us was spent, as Jesus took our place!

- “I will lay at rest my fury toward you.”