

1. Let's begin with a review of the seven visions we have studied so far from chapters 1-4. We need to keep in mind five things as we study these visions:

1. All the visions in Zechariah are for Israel (Judah & Jerusalem). While there are principles we can apply remember God has given these visions to Israel through his prophet Zechariah.
2. Put these visions in their proper context by answering these questions: what was happening to the Jews when God gave the vision? What were they trying to do? What were their problems?
3. Usually, when God communicates to the Jews he is either: (1) encouraging them by reminding them how great their God truly is; (2) or reminding them of their glorious future in the Kingdom of heaven on earth; (3) or admonishing them for their sinful behavior such as idolatry and disobedience to the Law. So these visions most likely are for one or for all of these purposes: encouragement, to remind them of their future, admonishment for disobedience.
4. God knows we are all a simple people so he speaks to us in ways we can understand. God knew Zechariah would understand what these visions meant. But sometimes terms familiar to that period of time may be unfamiliar to us today. So we need to study these things out. For example the meaning of certain words such as the ephah, or a flying roll.
5. Remember, our tendency is to make something we don't understand in the Bible too hard. God has written the Bible so the common man can understand it and that is you and me!

- A. First Vision: **The man riding upon a red horse who stood among the myrtle trees** is the preincarnate Lord Jesus Christ (before he came to earth as both man/God). Angelic riders upon horses patrol the earth and report back to God. It encouraged the exiles to be reminded that God was watching over them. The LORD gave them "good and comfortable words" (Zech 1:13).
- B. Second vision: **The four horns and the four carpenters** reminded the exiles that God raises up Kingdoms and he brings them down. It encouraged the exiles to be reminded that their God is in complete control and is aware of those who oppress Israel. Those who oppress Israel will be punished. The horns are kingdoms raised up and the carpenters are also kingdoms but they are raised up to bring down an existing kingdom. The carpenters bring down nations that have oppressed Israel and scattered her people. We looked at Daniel's prophecy in Chapter Two "the image of a man" dream to identify the four horns.
- C. Third vision: **The man with a measuring line in his hand** is the preincarnate Christ – prior to his first coming to earth. Again, this vision encouraged the Jewish exiles and their leaders that they will build the temple that they have begun, and it also reminded them of their glorious future when there will be a much larger temple in the Kingdom at the Second Coming of Christ.
- D. Fourth vision: **The High Priest Joshua and Satan who stood before the angel of the LORD** (the preincarnate Christ). The soil of the garments Joshua wore represented the sins of Israel (Judah, Jerusalem). Satan stood by ready to make accusations against Israel. Since these accusations were true Joshua was without an excuse. But the LORD showed mercy and forgave all Israel's sins as a "firebrand plucked from the fire". Because Israel is his chosen nation they are branded as his people. When the mitre was placed upon his head Joshua was confirmed as Jerusalem's high-priest. This encouraged the exiles knowing the LORD had not left them and that they were still his chosen people.

- E. **Fifth and sixth vision: The Branch and the Stone** with seven eyes both represent the Lord Jesus Christ. We learned these four things about the BRANCH: (1) He is a servant to both the LORD God and man; (2) he "grew up as a man out of his place" in heaven at the right hand of God the Father when he came to earth as both God/man; (3) the present temple will be built through his will and power; (4) he shall be both priest and king in the future millennial kingdom of "heaven on earth" when he will receive all the glory. As the Stone with seven eyes Jesus Christ has complete knowledge of everything. Nothing escapes his understanding. In Daniel 2:34-35 he is described as a stone cut without hands that destroys forever all the kingdoms of man whose kingdom fills the whole earth. It encouraged the exiles and renewed their hope to be reminded that the LORD knows everything and is all powerful. In the future he will rule and reign as priest and king in the future millennial kingdom.
- F. **Seventh vision: The Candlestick and the Two Olive Trees.** The exiles and their leaders Zerubbabel and Joshua were facing stiff opposition in building the temple. The exiles had become discouraged. Their opposition seemed like a mountain. In this vision the LORD showed them how the spirit of the LORD will overcome all opposition. The Holy Spirit will empower Zerubbabel and Joshua to lead the people and build the temple. In the vision, the two olive trees represent Zerubbabel and Joshua, the candlestick and the seven pipes to the seven lamps show the continuous flow of the Holy Spirit to Zerubbabel and Joshua. When the temple is done the people will cry "Grace, Grace" because they will know that it was not by their strength that the temple was built but it was through the power of the Holy Spirit. It was the grace of the LORD.

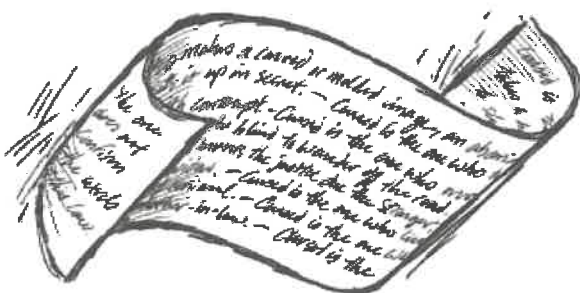


It's important that we see the common thread in these seven visions and how they apply to you and me today. Just like the exiles we see in these visions how God understands and cares about the difficulties we face in our life and his desire is to encourage us to follow his will. Like the exiles, the opposition we face in our life can seem like a mountain too big for us to handle. It will help us if we realize that God knows everything, sees everything, and that he alone can flatten a mountain into a plain. We too become weary, but our God will encourage and strengthen us like he did the Jewish exiles if only we will trust him. As we see what the LORD did for these exiles remember he can do the same for each of us! And don't forget the glorious future we have in Christ!

Now we are ready to review the last three visions of Zechariah:

- Eight vision: The Flying Roll
- Ninth vision A Woman in a Ephah
- Tenth vision: The Four Chariots

2. Zechariah's vision of the flying roll...(eight vision)



A. Zechariah saw a flying roll that was twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide. Since a cubit is roughly 1.5 feet this roll was 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. It is interesting to note that this is the same size as the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. In this room there was the Candlestick, Table

of Showbread, and the Altar of Incense. The Holy Place is just outside of the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle.

- B. A roll was used then to write down the words that the LORD spoke to the prophets and it was also used to document legal transactions.**

"Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it" (Zechariah 5:3).

- C. This warning is for both Jew and Gentile; although God is speaking primarily to the Jews.** Therefore, the "whole earth" is mainly focused upon the land of Palestine which is the land of the Jews. Israel, which includes Judah and Jerusalem, is God's chosen people and his nation, and Palestine is their land.
- D. The flying roll makes it clear that God judges man according to their works and none are spared.** This judgment comes on everyone who does not judge themselves by the Word of God. Because everyone would be cut off for disobedience to God's Word we know that God has provided a righteous way for someone to turn away from sin and turn to him.
- E. Most likely, the Ten Commandments were written upon both sides of the scroll ("on this side...as on that side...")**
- a. The first four commandments were on "this side" which dealt with man's relationship with God.
 - b. The last six commandments were on "that side" which dealt with man's relationship with man.
 - c. Remember the Ten Commandments were given to the nation of Israel and when they were scattered as a people they took their law with them. Often, the Jews had an influence upon whatever nation they had been scattered into.

As a reminder...

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 3-17)

- #1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me
- #2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- #3 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain:
- #4 Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all they work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God.
- #5 Honor thy father and thy mother
- #6 Thou shalt not kill
- #7 Thou shalt not commit adultery
- #8 Thou shalt not steal
- #9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- #10 Thou shalt not covet

The flying scroll would have flown over all of the land of Palestine so that all could read both sides of it. It would have been unrolled so both sides could be read. The Jews would have recognized the Ten

Commandments and the purpose for the scroll being seen would have been obvious to them; it was a reminder of what God demands.

"I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof" (Zechariah 5:4). See also Leviticus 14:44-45.

F. The LORD of hosts enters into the house of the thief and the house of him that swears falsely by his name.

- a. The "house of the thief" refers to the last six commandments that dealt with man's relationships with man. The "house of him that swears falsely by his name" refers to the first four commandments that dealt with man's relationship with God.
- b. According to Leviticus 14:44-45 the priest would destroy the house and would take the waste to a place of refuse outside of the city.

"Then the priest shall come and look, and, behold, if the plague be spread in the house, it is a fretting leprosy in the house: it is unclean. And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place" (Leviticus 14:44-45).

The LORD of hosts will destroy the house of anyone who steals or breaks any of the commandments that pertain to man's relationships with each other. The curse will enter into their house. The same fate exists for anyone who swears falsely by the LORD's name or breaks any of the commandments that pertain to man's relationship with God. The curse brings death into all aspects of their life.

3. Zechariah's vision of a woman in an ephah (ninth vision)

"Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth" (Zechariah 5:5-6).

"Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:36).

A. Zechariah saw an ephah that was moving above him in the sky (lift up thine eyes...that goeth forth). An ephah was used to measure and carry items; most likely grains and vegetables. It was similar in size to the bushel basket that we are familiar with. *The angel is speaking to Zechariah:*

"And behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof" (Zechariah 5:7-8).



B. The angel described the woman as "wickedness" and he placed a weight made of lead upon the opening of the ephah.

Jezebel is another example of wickedness as is the woman in Revelation; Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of harlots and abomination of the earth. (Rev 2:20, 17:5)

From Jerusalem to the land of Shinar



Read Zechariah 5:9-11

"Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?

And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land

of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base" (Zechariah 5: 9-11).

C. Two women who had wings like the wings of a stork lifted up the ephah and carried it from Jerusalem to Babylon in the land of Shinar. Babylon is known for being a seat of idolatry which is wickedness.

- a. It was not a good thing that a stork is used in this vision because the Jews consider the stork an unclean bird. While they are a kind bird they are only kind to other storks and not to other birds. So they are selective to whom they show kindness. Their selective kindness is selfish and represents wickedness.
- b. These two women with wings like a stork are feminine and appear kind but their kindness is not genuine. They use their female femininity for wickedness. Wicked women have played a significant part in the idolatrous worship of false gods.

To understand the correct interpretation we want to take this vision of the "Woman in the Ephah" in context with the previous visions of the "High priest Joshua and Satan" and "the Flying Roll" where God dealt with Judah's sin. The woman in the ephah represents Israel's great sin of idolatry. In this vision God measures Israel's sin of idolatry whose home base was in Babylon.

4. Zechariah's vision of the four chariots...(tenth vision)



5. "And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses" (Zechariah 6:1-2).

- A. Zechariah saw a vision of four chariots coming out from between two mountains made of brass.** These chariots were different colors and go forth in specific directions:
- Chariot #1 was red horses; Chariot #2 was black horses; Chariot #3 was white horses; Chariot #4 was griseled and bay horses.
 - These four chariots are the four spirits of the heavens which stand before the Lord of all the earth and are sent out by the Lord God. *They go forth in specific directions...*
 - The black horses (chariot #2) go forth into the north country
 - The white horses (chariot #3) followed after the black horses into the north country.
 - The griseled horses (chariot #4) go forth into the south country.
 - The red (Bay/reddish-brown) horses (chariot #1) went forth to walk to and fro through the earth.

Remember, all prophecy centers around God's nation Israel. Therefore, directions given in prophecy are from Jerusalem.

- The north country likely refers to area of Babylon
- The south country likely refers to Egypt. What is important is that the threats to Jerusalem come from the north and from the south.
- The two brass mountains represent power and judgment. The power of the Lord Jesus Christ and the judgment given to him by God the Father:

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (John 5:22).
Describing the Lord Jesus Christ: "And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters" (Revelation 1:15).

- B. In this vision God reminded the Jewish exiles:** (1) the LORD watches over them and he alone judges the nations, (2) the LORD will protect Jerusalem from the threats of her enemies. God is their protector and avenger. He will bring judgment upon those who hurt his people. The exiles would understand that when Christ returns as their Avenger he will also bring his kingdom with him. This vision would encourage them and give them hope.

C. Things to consider about the vision of the four chariots:

- The LORD commands these four horses to go and patrol the earth is the same as his command in Zechariah's first vision of the man riding upon a red horse that stood among the myrtle trees.
- These four horses are the hosts or armies of heaven ready to follow the Lord's command.
- These chariots are coming from between two mountains (strength & power) of brass – they are bringing powerful judgment with them.
- The four chariots and horses in Zechariah's vision are essentially the same colors as the four horses in Revelation 6:1-8 (white, red, black, pale). The order of the colors in Zechariah is not what is important; what is important is God is going to bring judgment to all the nations of the earth. This is what connects the four horses in Zechariah with the four horsemen in Revelation chapter Six.

Looking forward to the millennial temple...

6. The crowning of Joshua the high priest symbolizes the future crowning of THE High Priest Jesus Christ.



He will bring peace with his righteous rule as both King and High Priest. Seeing this act played out would encourage the exiles, because it reinforced that their promised Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ, will be crowned both High Priest and King of their



promised Kingdom on earth.

We should note that Joshua is in the priestly line of Moses and Aaron and he is not in the line of David the king. Placing the crowns on Joshua's head symbolizes combining the roles of king and priest. This can only be fulfilled in Christ Jesus

when he reigns during the millennial Kingdom of heaven on earth.

- A.** *The temple the Lord Jesus shall build in 6:12-13 refers to both: (1) the temple the exiles would build in the restoration of Jerusalem, and it also refers to (2) the millennial temple. So this prophecy has two applications: the present for the returning exiles, and the future kingdom on earth for the millennial temple. The will of the Lord Jesus will build both temples. The crowning of Joshua is prophecy about the crowning of their Messiah when He returns as both High Priest and King and the millennial temple is built.*

"And speak unto him, saying, Behold the man whose name is The **BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both" (Zechariah 6:12-13).

- a. **The Branch is the Lord Jesus Christ** and he shall bear the glory and sit and rule upon his throne. He came to earth at his First Coming as both man and God, so in that way he grew up (as a man) out of his place. His place is in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. (Please refer to Lesson Three)

B. The crowns were used as a memorial in the temple of the LORD. The crowns will be placed in the temple for safe keeping, to preserve them for future generations to remember this event that just occurred. I like what J. Vernon McGee said:

"Joshua did not wear these crowns. They were placed upon his head only for the symbolic crowning. Then, according to Jewish tradition, they were placed as symbols in the top windows of the temple for a memorial, serving as a reminder that the Messiah would come and that He would be not only the King but He also would be the Priest."

"And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God" (Zechariah 6:15).

The saints who will enter into the Kingdom are: (1) all the saints prior to the beginning of the Body of Christ (Acts 9); (2) Jews and Gentiles saved during the Tribulation, and (3) the Gentile nations (individuals or groups within) judged righteous by Christ for their treatment of Israel during the Tribulation. (The sheep and the goats/judgment of the nations) They will enter into the Kingdom and given eternal life. They will all bring offerings to build the temple of the LORD.