#### Zechariah 1:7-20

#### The Eight Visions of Zechariah 1-6

Zechariah 1-6 – Zechariah's Eight Visions on February 15, 519 BC

- 1. Man among the myrtle trees God is watching and controlling history
- 2. Four horns and four horn cutters God will remove the oppressive nations
- Measuring line Jerusalem will have a population explosion
- 4. **Garments for the High Priest** God is reinstalling the priesthood of Aaron
- 5. **Golden lamp stand and two olive trees** Joshua and Zerubbabel are anointed and are providing the oil for Israel's lamp
- 6. **Flying scroll** There is a curse hanging over the land. Violators of the covenant will be removed from history
- 7. **Woman in a basket** the system of evil will be returned to the pagan land of Babylonia but it will not be part of Israel's new nation.
- 8. **Four chariots** God ultimate victory over the oppressive nations is won and judgment is brought to those nations
- 1-3 focus on Judah's return from captivity
- 4-5 focus on the anointed of the Lord
- 6-8 focus on the seat of wickedness and the removal of that wickedness

The phrase of "all the earth" (kol-ha'ares) is used often to present YHWH as active and in control in a universal sense

Potentially a pattern in the eight visions concerning scope of message following: A-B-C-D-D-C-B-A

- Visions 1 and 8 universal perspective and the omniscience of the Lord
- Visions 2 and 7 international matters and Judah's relationship with the nations
- Visions 3 and 6 national issues of Judah, particularly in Jerusalem
- Visions 4 and 5 the temple and its leadership

Zechariah 1:7 – "On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying,



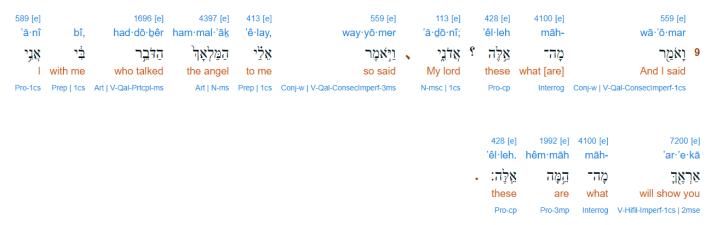
- 1. February 15, 519 BC
  - a. Three months after Zechariah's first oracle on October 27, 520 BC
  - b. Two months after Haggai's last two messages on December 18, 520 BC
  - c. A few days before the New Year's festivals in Jerusalem.
- 2. Reconstruction had started on the temple five months before on September 21, 520 BC
- 3. The rebuilt temple was finished four years later.

### 1:8 – "I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses.

996 [e]	5975 [e]	1931 [e]	122 [e]	5483 [e]	5921 [e]	7392 [e]	376 [e]	2009 [e]	3915 [e]	7200 [e]
bên	'ō·mê₫,	wə∙hū	'ā∙ḏōm,	sūs	'al-	rō⋅kêb	'îš	wə·hin·nêh-	hal·lay·lāh,	rā∙'î∙ <u>t</u> î
בֶּין among	עֹמֵל stood	וְהָוּא and it	אָלֿם red :	קוּס a horse	עַל־ on	רֹכֵב riding	אָישׁ a man	וְהַנֵּה־ and behold	הַלַּיְלָה by night	ן רָאָיתִין <mark>8</mark> Isaw
Prep	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w   Pro-3ms	Adj-ms	N-ms	Prep \	/-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-ms	Conj-w   Interjection	Art   N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-1cs
	3836 [e]	8320 [e]	122 [e]		5483 [e]	3	10 [e]	4699 [e]	834 [e]	1918 [e]
Ū	i·lə·ḇā·nîm.	śə∙ruq∙qîm	'ă∙dum∙mîm,		sū∙sîm	wə∙'a∙ḥă	á·rāw	bam·mə·şu·lāh;	'ă·šer	ha·hă·das·sîm
	:וּלְבָנְים and white	שְׂרָקִים sorrel	אֲדֻמִּים red		סוּמָים rol borsos	ריך and behind	ן אַתְוֹן - וְאַתְוֹן -	בַּמְצֵלֶה in the hollow	אָשֶׁרְ that [wore]	הַהְדַּפֶּים the myrtle trees
(	Conj-w   Adj-mp	Adj-mp	Adj-mp	[we	N-mp			Prep-b, Art   N-fs	Pro-r	Art   N-mp

- 1. Characters in vision:
  - a. A man riding on a red horse (is this the same as c and f)
  - b. An angel talking to Zechariah (verses 9, 13, 14) (also in 1:19; 2:3; 4:1, 4; 5:5, 10; 6:4)
  - c. A man standing among the myrtle trees (same as Angel of the Lord f and a)
  - d. The LORD
  - e. The riders (angels) on the red, reddish-brown and white horses sent to patrol the earth
  - f. **The Angel of the LORD** standing among the myrtle trees (same as man standing among myrtle trees c and a). This is the second member of the Trinity, the Son of God, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ.
- 2. "horses" indicate military presence, an angelic military presence
- 3. Colors of the horses most likely meant something very specific to Zechariah in his time under the culture of the Persian Empire. If the colors had meaning it would be clearer to him and his listeners than to us. The meaning could include the concept of bloodshed along with a mixed message of judgment for the nations, but blessing and victory for Judah. If the meaning of the colors was important there may have been a bit more information included. The colors are:
  - a. Red
  - b. Sorrel reddish brown or a dirty yellow or spotted, brownish orange.
  - c. White
- 4. These horses do not match the four horsemen of Revelation.
  - a. Revelation has for separate horses and riders each with a mission and symbolism.
  - b. These three colors were the colors of the division of angels patrolling the earth
- 5. Myrtle tree is an evergreen shrub 7-8 feet high known for use in construction of the booths (little shelters) used in the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:15). This could indicate God's presence or dwelling with Israel, or better, the people of Jerusalem dwelling with the Lord.

### 1:9 – "I asked the angel who was talking with me, "My lord, what do these horses mean?" "I will show you," the angel replied.



### 1:10 – "So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, 'These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.'



- The Persian emperors had messengers who rode fast horses to communicate events and information back to the emperor from all over the Persian world. These would be similar, but angelic serving the Lord.
- 2. The earth is also patrolled by Satan:
  - a. Job 1:7
  - b. 1 Peter 5:8

3.

1:11 – "And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, 'We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.'



- 1. The Persian world was at rest or had peace in 520-519 BC in the sense that all were under the oppression of Persia.
  - a. The nations were at ease while Judah was struggling to recover
  - b.
- 2. Rebellion broke out in:
  - a. Media
  - b. Elam
  - c. Armenia
  - d. Iran
  - e. Egypt and Asia Minor were effected
- Even recorded by the Persians is Darius' boast that in nineteen battles he had defeated nine rebel leaders and had subdued all his enemies. So the empire was again quiet and under control by 520 B.C.

## 1:12 – "Then the angel of the LORD said, 'O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?"

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1. The Angel of YWHW asks YWHW how long will his judgment of Judah continue.

2.

#### 1:13 – "And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

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### 1:14- "So the angel who talked with me said to me, 'Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion.



- 1. "Zealous" qinneti /kaw-naw) "to be jealous or zealous"
- 2. "Zeal" qin-ah /kin-aw/ "ardor, zeal, jealously"
  - a. These two words come from the color produced in the face by deep emotion
  - b. These words come from the idea "to become intensely red"
  - c. God is greatly concerned about the current condition of Judah.

#### 1:15 - "And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster.



1. The Lord is saying here to Judah that even though the Persians are ruling and at peace, the Lord is still angry with the nations. This was just a moment in time. Soon the nations would be judged and Judah restored.

## 1:16 – "Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.

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- 1. Here YHWH promises that:
  - a. the temple would be rebuilt
    - i. This was accomplished between 520-515 BC
  - b. the city again would become a functioning city.
    - i. the city walls were completed until 444 B.C. (Neh. 7:4; 11:1).
    - ii. Measuring with the measuring line (or, tape measure) indicated laying out the plans for the city followed by the construction and expansion of the restored city.
      - Jeremiah had predicted this in Jeremiah 31:38-39 –
         "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when the city shall be rebuilt for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. And the measuring line shall go out farther, straight to the hill Gareb, and shall then turn to Goah."
- 2. The Lord had previously "stretch out the measuring line" over Jerusalem to destroy it: 2 Kings 21:10, 11, 13 –

"the Lord said by his servants the prophets, 'Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did... I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

1:17 – "Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem."

	5892 [e] <b>'ā·ray</b>	te	6327 <b>∍∙pū·șe·n</b> ä		60 şə·bā·	635 [e] ' <mark>ō·w<u>t</u>,</mark>			559 [e] ' <b>ā·mar</b>	3541 [e] <b>kōh</b>	559 [e] <b>lê·mōr</b> ,	7121 <b>qə</b> ·		5750 [e] 'ō∙w₫	
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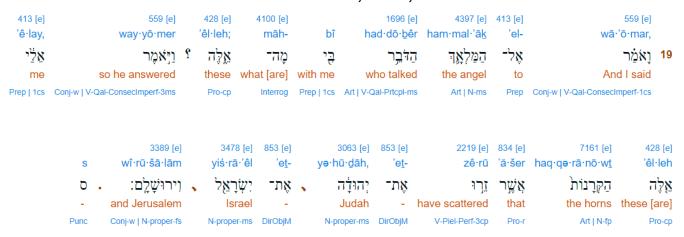
#### The Four Horns and the Four Horn Cutters

#### 1:18 – "And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns!

7161 [e] qə·rā·nō·w <u>t</u> .	702 [e] 'ar∙ba'	2009 [e] wə·hin·nêh		7200 [e] <b>wā·'ê·re</b> ;		5869 [e] <b>'ê·nay</b>	853 [e] 'e <u>t</u> -	5375 [e] <b>wā·'eś·śā</b>	
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	Number-fsc	Conj-w   Interjection		Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-1cs		, ,	DirObjM	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-1cs	

- 1. Horns in the Bible are symbolic for strength. In this case the strength of a nation or an empire.
- 2. Horns of an animal are trophies from the hunt of having conquered strength
- 3. Even though only the horns are mentioned it is acceptable to consider that these horns in the vision were seen on some kind of animal or beast.
  - a. The horns feel terror when the see the horn cutters coming.

## 1:19- "And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."



- 1. Notice these four horns (or, empires/nations) scattered (zeru) not just Jerusalem, but:
  - a. Judah (Babylon 586 BC, Rome 70 AD)
  - b. Israel (Assyria 721 BC)
  - c. Jerusalem (Babylon 586 BC, Rome 70 AD)

- 2. These four horns are the empires that scattered Jerusalem, Israel and Judah:
  - a. Could they be: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Persia
    - i. The horn cutters could then be: Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece
  - b. Could they be: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome
- i. The horn cutters could then be: Persia, Greece, Rome and the Kingdom of God 1:20 "Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

	7200 [e]	3068 [e]	702 [e]	2796 [e]	
	way·yar·'ê·nî	Yah·weh,	'ar·bā·'āh	ḥā∙rā∙šîm.	
20	<u>וַיַּרְאֵנִי</u>	יְהֹנָה	אַרְבָּעָה	:חָרָשְׁים	
	And showed me	Yahweh	four	craftsmen	
	Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConsecImperf-3ms   1cs	N-proper-ms	Number-ms	N-mp	

- 1. "Craftsmen" harasim "engraver" or "artificier"
  - a. translated as "artisan, blacksmith, carpenter, craftsmen, engraver, mason".
  - b. These are laborers in metal work, wood work or stone work
  - c. From the word *charash* which means a fabricator or any material
  - d. These craftsmen carried hammers or saws to crush or remove the horns from the beasts.

# 1:21 – "And I said, "What are these coming to do?" He said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it."

834 [e] 'ă·šer- 'ŭ·šer- that Pro-r	7161 [e] haq·qə·rā·nō·wt הַקְרַנוֹת the horns Art   N-fp	'êl·leh אֲלֶה these [are]	559 [e] lê·mōr, לאמר saying rep-l   V-Qal-Inf	Conj-w   V-Qal-	559 (ej way·yō·mei 'ژ <sup>ن</sup> کرتֶר so he said ConsecImperf-3ms	?	[ 6213 la·'ă·śō·w עֲשֶׁוֹת to d Prep-I   V-Qal-I	<u>t;</u> <u>7</u> lo c	935 [e] bāːʾîm בָּאָים coming rtcpl-mp	428 [e] 'êl-leh קלה these w Pro-cp	ן 4100 mā ה hat [are Intern	ih D e]	w   V-Qal-Cor	559 [e] wā-'ō·mar אַבְּׁרָּ And I said secImperf-1cs
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	D •		3063 [e] 776 [e p·hū·dāh 'e-rei עָרֶץ' יְהוּדָה of Judah the land proper-ms N-fs	el- אֶל־ d against	7161 [e] qe·ren קרָר [their] horn N-fs	th	5375 [e] הַלּשְׁאָים הַנְשְׁאָים at lifted up Qal-Prtcpl-mp	hag	1471 gō·w·y יִים he natio	im, qar∙n וֹת הַגּ ons the h	ō·w <u>t</u> קרְנְ orns	- אֶת־ -	3034 lə·yad·dō· דות to cast c Prep-I   V-Piel	wt 'ō·tām, אֹתֶּם לְיַּי ut them