

"The 8 Night Visions"

Part 2

Zechariah 1:7-6:15

Introduction: Today in our study of Zechariah we have come to the second of the 8-night visions. This vision is found in Zechariah 1:18-21. There is very little information given about this vision but there is much for us to see as we understand what this vision is about.

"The Vision of 4 Carpenters"

I. The Horns

Notice Zechariah 1:18-19

In the Bible, the HORN is symbolic of power. These 4 horns were the 4 Gentile powers that had been used of God to bring about discipline upon the Jews. We see these 4 Gentile powers in Daniel also.

Notice Daniel 2:36-45

Notice the Chart on the screen.

We see the same 4 Gentile powers in Daniel 7.

Notice Daniel 7:2-7, 13-14

The 4 horns or the 4 Gentile world powers were and would be used of God to chasten and discipline His people.

The Babylonians were used, then it was the Medes and the Persians, then it would be Greece, then Rome and the revived Roman Empire.

Notice the chart again on the screen.

Application:

There is a lesson in all of this for our lives. God often allows people to step into our lives whom He uses to correct, chasten, or just chip away at things which need to be removed.

Romans 8:28-29, 35-37

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Let me share something with you that we had looked at a while ago in our Sunday evening studies.

1 Peter 2:5-7

⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

⁷ Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

We are living stones that make up a spiritual building. As stones we need to be cut, chipped and fitted so that we can be used in the proper place.

Now let me take you back to Solomon's Temple and the preparations of the stones for the Temple.

1 Kings 6:7

⁷ And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

The stones for Solomon's temple were all cut in the quarry and then they were brought and used to build the Temple.

This world is the quarry where we are being cut and chipped on. There will be no chipping or cutting when we get into heaven. The cutting happens here. Therefore, we must understand that our Lord allows people to come into our lives and they will be very

difficult to deal with. But they are serving God's purpose. The problem with many believers is that they want to escape the quarry and the person whom God has called to do the cutting. Too many times we want to jump somewhere else where we can escape the "stone cutter." But we must understand that if we do God will have another "stone cutter" in the next place we move to.

II. The Carpenters

Notice Zechariah 1:20-21

The word "FRAY" here means "to terrify."

Notice Zechariah 1:15

Two weeks ago I had told you that the *Gentile* powers whom God used to chasten Isarel went too far. They went beyond their call, and they began to oppress them. This is then the reason for the 4 carpenters/craftsmen. They would come to terrify those who oppress Isarel.

Now let me explain who the carpenters are. When Babylon was in power the carpenter was the Medes and the Persians. When the Medes and the Persians were in power it would be the Grecians. When the Grecians were in power it would be the Romans. When the revived Roman Empire under the Anti-Christ is in power it will be Jesus Christ. So the carpenters actually become the horns in some cases.

Now one of the carpenters had already been used of God and that was the Medes and the Persians. They had come in and they overthrew the Babylonians. I want to explain how that happened.

Daniel 5:1-6, 25-28

Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

² *Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.*

³ *Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.*

⁴ *They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

⁵ *In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*

⁶ *Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.*

²⁵ *And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.*

²⁶ *This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.*

²⁷ *TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*

²⁸ *PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

The Babylonians felt very secure inside their city.

- ✓ **The outer walls were 17 miles (27 kilometers) long.**
- ✓ **These walls were 22 feet (7 meters) thick and 90 feet (28 meters) high.**
- ✓ **The outer walls also had guard towers another 100 feet (30 meters) high.**
- ✓ **The city gates were made of bronze.**
- ✓ **A system of inner and outer walls and moats made the city very secure.**

Cyrus the Persian led his army to capture Babylon. The Euphrates River flowed under the wall and through the city. Cyrus diverted the river into a swamp and his soldiers walk in the river and under the walls.

The ancient Greek historian Herodotus relates that the Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylon by diverting the flow of the Euphrates into a nearby swamp. This lowered the level of the river, so his troops marched through the water and under the river-gates. They still would not have been able to enter had not the bronze gates of the inner walls been left inexplicably unlocked.

Isaiah 44:28-45:1-3

²⁸ *That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

² *I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: **I will break in pieces the gates of brass**, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:*

³ *And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.*

Just as God had foretold the Persians conquered the Babylonians. There is yet another part to this. Remember the carpenters were called to terrify. Listen to the words of Fienberg:

"An interesting historical fulfillment of the prophecy of the judgment of God upon Babylon, although only a partial one, is the following. In the fourth year of Darius, the Babylonians, after much plotting, revolted and shut them selves up in their city, ready for a long siege."

"Zopyrus, Darius' friend and general, cut off his own ears and nose, and by pretending that he had been thus mutilated by Darius, gained entrance into the city and the confidence of the besieged ones. By his craft the gates were opened to the Persians, and when the city was mastered thousands of Babylonian nobles were crucified."

Conclusion:

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

³ *And **I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee**: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Romans 12:18-19

¹⁸ *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

¹⁹ *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*