

## **Zechariah 1:18-21 The Visions of the Four Horns and Four Craftsmen**

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Zechariah

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The Book of Zechariah focuses on ten visions that the LORD gave to Zechariah.

Visions are revelatory experiences that manifest before the visionary God's will, plans, and/or perspective.

These ten visions are:

1. Riders under the Myrtle Trees
2. Four horns
3. Four smiths
4. Man with a measuring line
5. Joshua & Satan
6. The Branch
7. The lampstand and two olive trees
8. Flying Scroll
9. Woman in the Ephah
10. . Four Chariots

Last time we were in Zechariah we looked at the First Vision given to Zechariah; The Vision of the Riders under the Myrtle Trees.

Zechariah in this first vision saw a man riding on a red horse as it stood among the myrtle trees. The man in this vision is none other than JESUS CHRIST. In verses 11 and 12 we saw the phrase the Angel of the LORD.

Whenever the phrase the “Angel of the LORD;” appears. It is always a reference to JESUS CHRIST. These appearances in the Old Testament are known as a Christophany.

A Christophany is a physical appearance of JESUS CHRIST before HIS incarnation. It is difficult for us to think about a person existing before they are born. As GOD; JESUS is fully man and fully GOD; HE has always existed.

Some examples:

\* Genesis Chapter 18 negotiated with Abraham over Sodom and Gomorah.

- Genesis Chapter 32 wrested with Jacob
- Joshua Chapter 5 as Commander of the Armies of the LORD
- Judges Chapter 13 where he appeared to Samson’s parents
- Daniel Chapter 3 with Shadrach Meshach and Abed Nego in the fiery furnace.

The myrtle trees in this vision represent the nation of Israel. Myrtle is a beautiful flowering bush/ tree that is prevalent in Israel.

Myrtle was required by GOD to be used by the JEWS in the construction of their Sukkots with palm leaves for the Feast of Tabernacles.

We looked at last time that GOD is zealous and jealous for Jerusalem and the Nation of Israel. They are HIS chosen people. Even though they have been unfaithful to HIM; HE still loves them. HE is also zealous for and loves you.

This morning, we are going to look at the next two visions; the visions of the Four Horns and the Four Craftsmen.

### [Zechariah 1:13–20](#)

“13 And the Lord answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words.

14 So the angel who spoke with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal.

15 I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, and they helped—but with evil intent.”

16 ‘Therefore thus says the Lord: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the Lord of hosts, “And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.” ’

17 “Again proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The Lord will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem.” ’ ’ ”

18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns.

19 And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these?” So, he answered me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”

“20 Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen.

21 And I said, “What are these coming to do?” So he said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.””

[Zechariah 1:18–19](#) “18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns.

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As the visions are given to Zechariah by an angel or messenger. He asks the angel to explain to him what he is seeing. The angel then explains it to him.

[Proverbs 25:2](#)

“2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”

God wants us to search out HIS WORD to know HIM better and more intimately.

As we read the Bible; how do we approach our reading? (Explain)

[James 1:5](#)

“5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Do we expect God to answer us when we read? (Describe love letter)

Asking of God applies to more than when we read our Bibles, it also refers to prayer.

[Luke 11:9–13](#)

“9 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!””

A parallel passage is Matthew Chapter 7 verses 7 to 11.

The word in the Greek for Ask is aiteo (eye-te-o) and suggests the attitude of a supplicant; the petition of one who is lesser in position than he to whom the petition is made. For example, the case of a child asking something of a parent; a subject from a King; and a man asking something from GOD.

The word seek means to seek in order to find; by means of thinking, meditating, reasoning, to enquire into. In other words use your mind.

The word knock means to knock on a door.

(Three stages of asking; seeking, knocking)

Not only should we pray for ourselves, but for others.

Charles Spurgeon wrote about praying for one another.

As an encouragement cheerfully to offer intercessory prayer, remember that such prayer is the sweetest God ever hears, for the prayer of Christ is of this character. In all the incense which our Great High Priest now puts into the golden censer, there is not a single grain for himself. His intercession must be the most acceptable of all supplications--and the more like our prayer is to Christ's, the sweeter it will be; thus, while petitions for ourselves will be accepted, our pleadings for others, having in them more of the fruits of the Spirit, more love, more faith, more brotherly kindness, will be, through the precious merits of Jesus, the sweetest oblation that we can offer to God, the very fat of our sacrifice. Remember, again, that intercessory prayer is exceedingly prevalent. What wonders it has wrought! The Word of God teems with its marvelous deeds. Believer, you have a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and you will surely be a blessing to others. When you have the King's ear, speak to him for the suffering members of his body. When you are favored to draw very near to his throne, and the King saith to you, "Ask, and it will be given to you," let your petitions be, not for yourself alone, but for the many who need his aid.

[Luke 11:13](#)

“13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!””

How many of us as parents desire to bless our children?

Are we asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

How about for our church?

Please turn back to:

[Zechariah 1:18–21](#)

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“20 Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen.

21 And I said, “What are these coming to do?” So he said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.””

[Zechariah 1:18](#)

“18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns.”

Horns in Scripture are a symbol of power. (Describe nature — two different deer) Horn in scripture typically point to the power of a nation.

For example;

[Psalm 75:4–5](#)

“4 “I said to the boastful, ‘Do not deal boastfully,’ And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn. 5 Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.’ ””

[Psalm 89:17](#)

“17 For You are the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn is exalted.”

[Daniel 7:7-8;](#)

“7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

[Revelation 13:1](#) “1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”

[Revelation 17:3](#)

“3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

In Zechariah Chapter 1 verse 18, Zechariah sees four horns. in verse 19 he asks the angel; “what are these? “The angel tells him that these are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.

[Zechariah 1:20–21](#) “20 Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen.

21 And I said, “What are these coming to do?” So, he said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.””

Zechariah asks the angel what are the four craftsmen that the LORD showed him.

The angel explains plainly that these are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head. The craftsmen are coming to terrify them; and to cast out the horns that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.

Here we see two visions that are different, but the same.

This pattern is repeated throughout scripture.

The dreams of the butler and baker in prison with Joseph in Genesis Chapter 40. Butler 3 vines Baker 3 baskets(explain)

The dreams given to Pharaoh and interpreted by Joseph in Genesis Chapter 41.(explain)

The dreams of the World Empires in Daniel Chapter 2 and Daniel Chapter 7, which we look at more shortly.

Why does GOD use what appear to be different and distinct dreams or visions; but they have the same meaning?

#### [Genesis 41:25](#)

“25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:”

Back to Zechariah Chapter 1 Verses 18 to 21. Here in this passage. We are told that the horns are ones that have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. At the same time the craftsmen are the horns that have scattered Judah; Israel and Jerusalem also. And that the craftsmen become the horns.

Turn to Daniel. We are going to be looking at the dreams given to Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel in Chapters 2 and 7.

#### [Daniel 2:31–35](#)

“31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

Keep your finger here and turn to

#### [Daniel 7:1–8](#)

“1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it.

5 “And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

6 “After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.”

7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

We have talked about these two dreams before. The dreams are different and yet the same. Remember the dreams of Pharoah’s Butler and Baker and Pharoah’s Dreams.

(Explain the difference between the two Dreams in Daniel Chapter 2 & 7.)

Compare these dreams now with the visions that Zechariah saw.

These four kingdoms represent the four horns in Zechariah’s vision and also the four craftsmen.

The angel described the craftsmen as horns. The horns represent the nations that have scattered Judah; the craftsmen were coming to terrify and cast out the horns of the nations that lifted their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.

Babylon the first horn.

Medo-Persia the First Craftsmen and the second horn.

(explain though the rest of the list )

Who conquered Rome? No one. (Explain)

God used each successive nation as an instrument of judgement upon each previous nation or horn.

Menachem Begin the Prime Minister of Israel from 1977-1983; wrote in a letter to then President Ronald Reagan. **“My generation, dear Ron; swore on the altar of God that whoever proclaims the intent of destroying the Jewish state or the Jewish people or both, seals his fate.”**



The armies of Israel do not do the judging; but the LORD who does the judging. And HIS judgement is perfect and just.

We have just briefly looked at these four world empires and their treatment of the nation of Israel; and a yet future fulfilment of the fourth craftsman. You may be asking; how does this vision of the four horns and the four craftsmen apply today.

Modern nations need to be cautious in their relationship to Israel.

### [Zechariah 2:8](#)

“8 For thus says the Lord of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.”

God promised Abraham in Genesis Chapter 12 verse 3 .

### [Genesis 12:3](#)

“3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””

God holds the nations accountable for how they treat HIS people the Jews. God will use how a nation treats and responds to Israel as HIS measure as how HE will respond to them.

God may use a nation to be a blessing to Israel; who in time may turn and curse Israel.

Think of Egypt. God used Egypt to protect the Nation of Israel; by sending Joseph as a slave to Egypt; and raised to a position of prominence after the interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams of the 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine.

(Explain and about the land of Goshen what happened 400 years later ... another Pharaoh)  
God used Egypt to protect and bless Israel until they began to mistreat HIS people.

Why did God destroy Pharaoh’s army by drowning them in the red sea?

(explain)

We already looked at the four world empires and them being used as instruments of deliverance and then of judgement for their treatment of the Jewish people.

How about modern nations?

Germany — Hitler rises to power and implements his “Final Solution” to deal with the Jews.

(explain briefly the holocaust and post WWII Germany)

Great Britain — Responsible for the Balfour Declaration in 1917 which supported the creation of a Jewish homeland in the area referred to as Palestine. (Remember this name was created by the Romans after 70 AD when they conquered Israel. Provincia Syria Palaestina) Before 1948, Jews living in this area would have had a Palestinian passport and considered to be a Palestinian.

Also remember there was a time that Great Britain was a world power.

Great Britain would boast how the sun would never set on the British Empire due to colonies being around the world.

But In May 1939 the British government altered its policy recommending a limit of 75,000 further immigrants and an end to immigration by 1944, unless the resident Palestinian Arabs of the region consented to further immigration. WWII changed these plans; along with the rebirth of the Nation of Israel.

Where is Great Britain today? It is no longer a world power and is almost overrun by Muslims.

How about the United States? Before WWII started as Hitler and the Nazi's began to persecute the Jews; there were some Jews who saw what was happening and sought to flee. (tell the story of the MS St. Louis in 1939 28 stay in Cuba, rest forced to return 255 die -most in concentration camps)

As WWII was coming to an end. Plans were underway for what Europe and the Middle East would look like after the war.

Almost 80 years ago this week, on February 14, 1945 President Roosevelt met with King Abdul Aziz Al Saud; known as Ibn Saud; the man who founded Saudi Arabia.

FDR has asked Ibn Saud to allow 10,000 European Jews to enter into Palestine. Ibn Saud flatly refused. "According to U.S. minutes of the meeting, Roosevelt also 'wished to assure His Majesty that he would do nothing to assist the Jews against the Arabs and would make no move hostile to the Arab people.'"

Less than two months later, FDR was dead and Harry Truman became President. On May 14th, 1948 against the wishes and advise of his cabinet, Harry Truman became the first leader of a nation to recognize the Nation of Israel after David Ben Gurion's announcement.

What happened God blessed America. The United States became a world power. Blessings followed. We are not in the same place today.

Several US Presidents have supported and endorsed a so-called "two state solution." Which would divide the land of Israel.

As America encourages and supports the destruction of the borders of Israel, could the destruction of our borders be the judgement from God.

When JESUS returns, HE will be the fourth and final Craftsman bringing terror on the people of the nations (the horns;)that have scattered HIS people. His return as according to the two visions in Daniel will be when there is a 10 nation confederacy ruling the Earth.