

Zechariah Chapter 6 verses 1 to 15

Vision of Four Chariots and the Branch

Frank G Warbuton / General Adult

Zechariah / Zechariah 6:1-15

The Book of Zechariah records ten visions that were given to him in one night.

To review, the ten visions are.:

1. Riders under the Myrtle Trees (1:7-17)
2. Four horns (1:18-19)
3. Four smiths (1:20-31)
4. Man with a measuring line (Chapter 2)
5. Joshua & Satan (3:1-7)
6. The Branch (3:8-10)
7. The lampstand and two olive trees (Chapter 4)
8. Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
9. Woman in the Ephah (5:5-11)

10. Four Chariots (Chapter 6)

The last two times we were in Zechariah we looked at the Visions of the Woman in the Ephah; which is in Zechariah Chapter 5 verses 5 to 11. In this vision we saw that the women represented Wickedness. This is further reinforced through the vision in that the women are described as having the wings of a stork. In Leviticus Chapter 11 Verse 13; God tells Moses that a group of birds are to be considered an abomination to the Children of Israel. Verses 14-19 give the list the list of birds. Storks are mentioned in Verse 19.

Hermeneutics is the method of studying and interpreting the Bible. We ask questions as we study. Expositional Constancy is the concept that symbols or idioms are used consistently in the same way throughout the Scriptures.

Birds are consistently portrayed as the workers of Satan. Reread the parables of the Sower in Matthew Chapter 13; Mark Chapter 4 and Luke Chapter 8.

These women with the wings of a stork are carrying the Ephah to the land of Shinar. The plain of Shinar is where Babylon was and is going to be located. As we studied Babylon the last two messages. Babylon refers to the literal City founded by Nimrod in the book of Genesis. Babylon was ruled by Nebuchadnezzar; was still around during the writing of the New Testament. It is current geographical location today; and will be rebuilt to be judged by GOD during the Tribulation.

Babylon also refers to an economic and religious system. The United States is not Babylon. Rome is not Babylon. But both are part of the Babylonian system. These would be daughter; systems. Babylon is a name synonymous with rebellion against GOD.

Revelation 17:5

“5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”

Tonight we will be looking at the last of the Ten Visions that were given to Zechariah, the Vision of the Four Chariots.

Zechariah 6:1–8

“1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze.

2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses,

3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses—strong steeds.

4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?”

5 And the angel answered and said to me, “These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth.

6 The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.”

7 Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.” So they walked to and fro throughout the earth.”

“8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”

Zechariah 6:1

“1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze.”

Zechariah Chapter 6 starts with the word “then.” This shows that this vision is a continuation of the previous visions that were given to Zechariah.

Metals have different symbolic meanings in Scripture.

Gold refers to the heavenly scene. The Ark of the Covenant with was made with acacia wood, overlaid with gold. The Mercy Seat was made of pure Gold. The Menorah or Lampstand was made with Gold. See Exodus Chapter 25

Silver would refer to blood or redemption. The sockets of the tabernacle were made of silver.

Joseph was sold by his brothers for thirty pieces of silver in Genesis Chapter 37 verse 38.

In the Gospels we read about Judas's betrayal of JESUS.

Matthew 26:14–15

“14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”

Matthew 27:3–4 “3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!”

Brass or bronze are used interchangeably in Scripture. Metallurgically they are slightly different when mixed with tin or copper or zinc. But we not focus on that. Brass or bronze always refer to judgement.

In the tabernacle the Laver was of Bronze which was used for washing. See Exodus Chapter 30. The altar of burnt offerings was made of bronze See Exodus Chapter 35

In Numbers Chapter 21 we have an interesting true account of what happened when the Children of Israel began to complain to Moses about the LORD. (share the account with serpents)

(Explain the meaning of the bronze serpent.)

The bronze serpent is not a story; it is a true historical account. JESUS used this to point to HIMSELF.

John 3:14–15

“14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

(share the Gospel)

In Revelation Chapter 1 JESUS is described as having feet like brass. In Revelation Chapter 2 in the letter to the Church of Thyatira we see:

Revelation 2:18 “18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:’”

Zechariah 6:1

“1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze.”

Most scholars believe that these two mountains are in Jerusalem and are the Mount of Olives and Mount Zion.

(Explain Mount Moriah; the Kidron Valley; the Mount of Olives.

Mount Zion and the valley of Hinnom.)

The mountains of bronze represent judgement. The Kidron valley could also be known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat. GOD will judge the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat

Joel 3:2

“2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.”

Zechariah 6:2–8

“2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses,

3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses—strong steeds.

4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?”

5 And the angel answered and said to me, “These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth.

6 The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.”

7 Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.” So they walked to and fro throughout the earth.

8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”

Pastor Chuck Smith in his teaching on Zechariah Chapter 6 talked about visions as possibly having different interpretations. With visions the meaning that makes sense is correct.

It is easy when the LORD gives us the meaning of the vision. For example the Dream of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel Chapter 2 and the vision or dream that Daniel had in Chapter 7.

What do these horses and chariots mean?

Just as metals have scriptural symbolism; so do colors.

Red could refer to war.

Black could refer to death.

White could refer to victory or conquering.

Dappled could refer to famine.

There is several different views on these horses.

1. This is tied to the vision of the Riders under the Myrtle trees in Zechariah Chapter 1 verses 7 to 17.
2. This is tied to the vision of the Four Horns in Zechariah Chapter 1 verses 18 to 19; and the vision of the Four Craftsmen in Zechariah Chapter 1 verse 20 to 31. (Four nations GOD used to judge Israel. (The first nation was the first horn. God raised up the craftsman to judge the horn. This craftsman then became the next horn and so on until JESUS is the final craftsman.) Daniel Chapter 2 and 7 . Babylon, Medo-Persia; Greece; Rome — JESUS reigning.
3. A lot of commentators and teacher believe that these Chariots are Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Which are the first four seal judgements in Revelation Chapter 6 verses 1 to 8. (Explain:) (Rider on white horse not JESUS — has a bow and different crown than JESUS)

Similarities Four horses; Four horns, Four craftsmen; four horses with chariots; Four horsemen. Same color horses.

Differences.

In the Vision of the Riders under the Myrtle trees the red, sorrel and white horses go out. No mention of the black.

In the Vision of the Four Chariots in Zechariah Chapter 6, the black, white and dappled horses go out. No mention of the Red.

In the opening of the four seals all four riders on the different colored horses go out.

Conclusion:

Not sure what these chariots symbolize. I do know they represent judgement.

Zechariah 6:6 “6 The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.”

The directions North and South could be references to nations that have persecuted Israel. Babylon to the North and Egypt to the South. Except for Egypt; Israel’s enemies would always attack from the North, be it Assyria, Babylon. Etc. (Explain about need for supplies for armies.)

Why not East and West. To the East — desert. To the West — the Mediterranean Sea.

Zechariah 6:7–8

“7 Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.” So they walked to and fro throughout the earth.

8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”

The steeds going out walking to and fro throughout the earth, represents that this judgement will go throughout the whole earth.

In verse 8 the horses and chariots going to the north country will give rest to the Spirit of God. This simply means that when the judgement is finished GOD will be satisfied.

Zechariah 6:9-11

9 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

10 “Receive the gift from the captives—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon—and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah.

11 Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

The names Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah are the names of three men who returned from the Babylonian Captivity. Heldai means “robust.” Tobijah means “Yehovah is good.” Jedaiah means “Yehovah has known.” Putting the names together shows that God knows that through HIS goodness HE intends to put HIS King upon the throne and HE will do it in a robust and powerful manner. This is symbolic but points to JESUS coming to the earth to reign; which is yet future still.

Here we see something different . A crown for a king being put on the head of Joshua the high priest. Why not put the crown on the head of Zerubabbel; who is in the line of David, the royal line? GOD is simply showing that HE is not going to restore the line of David during the time of Zechariah. The next one to wear the crown of David will be JESUS.

We recognize the name of this high priest, Joshua. Joshua or Y’shua in Hebrew is JESUS in the Greek. This is JESUS being crowned as a King and a Priest. Jewish people and scholars would reject this. They would say; the Kingly line is from the tribe of Judah. The priestly line from Aaron. In the Bible these two offices were separate and when people attempted to do so it did not turn out well.

Turn to 2 Chronicles Chapter 26

[2 Chronicles 26:14, 16-20](#)

“14 Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones.”

“16 But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God by entering the temple of the Lord to

burn incense on the altar of incense.

17 So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the Lord—valiant men.

18 And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the Lord God.”

19 Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the incense altar.

20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the Lord had struck him.”

It was impossible for Uzziah to fulfill the role as King and Priest. As I stated earlier, Jewish people and scholars would object to this because; while JESUS's genealogy is through the Royal line; the tribe of Judah, it is not through the Aaronic, Levitical Line. True.

Something else to look at with the crown being put on Joshua's head are the metals, silver and gold. As we have looked at earlier, silver would represent blood. Gold would represent heavenly things and also kingship. Symbolically here we would have the Priesthood joined to the Kingship. There is an example in scripture of a person who fulfilled the roles of both King and Priest. Melchizedek.

Turn to Genesis Chapter 14, starting in verse 18

(describe Lot being captured and Abraham going to rescue him from the five kings, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim and Zoar)

On his way back from rescuing lot, Abraham meets a King.

[Genesis 14:18–20](#)

“18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he (Abraham) gave him(Melchizedek) a tithe of all.”

(explain the meaning of Salem and what Melchizedek brought out.)

The writer of the Book of Hebrews captured this thought as well. Turn to Hebrews Chapter 7. While you are turning there, I am going to read to you what David wrote about JESUS in [Psalm 110](#).

[Psalm 110:4](#)

“4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

[Hebrews 7:1–10](#)

“1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,”

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of

Abraham;”

“6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,

10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.”

Skip down to verse 26

Hebrews 7:26–28

“26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.”

JESUS is not a priest after the order of Levi; but after the order of Melchizedek. (Explain)

Back to Zechariah Chapter 6.

Zechariah 6:12-15

12 Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall

branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord;

13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” ’

14 “Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the Lord for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

15 Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

In verses 12 and 13, is another reference to JESUS. The man whose name is the BRANCH.

In these verses we see the fulness of this Messianic Prophecy.

1. We see the humanity of the Branch. (The MAN)
2. We see the place of HIS birth.
3. The building of the millennial temple. (Not the coming temple which will be desecrated by the coming world leader.)
4. HIS fitness to declare the Glory of God.
5. HIS reign on the throne of David.
6. HIS priestly ministry.
7. The issue of HIS blessed ministry (Peace — two fold — Salvation and yet future)

(Any guesses on who the MAN whose is the BRANCH IS?)

Yes, JESUS. Isn't it incredible that we go from the heaviness of GOD's judgement to bright reign of JESUS. It is always darkest before the dawn.

[John 1:1](#) “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” and

[John 1:14](#) “14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

While our recent celebration may not have been the actual day that JESUS was born. We are able to celebrate the fact that HE was born.

Building the temple has a few meanings. While the Pharisees and Scribes put a lot of trust in Herod’s temple. This temple which stood during the time JESUS walked the Earth was Solomon’s temple rebuilt.

JESUS would rebuke the leadership at this time for their trust in the “physical building” of the temple. In all of the Gospels; it is recorded how JESUS went through and cleansed the temple of the moneychangers.

In [John 2:18–22](#)

“18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”

19 Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

20 Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

The first reference was to HIMSELF as the temple.

The second would be to the millennial temple; which is yet to be built.

There are several sects of Ultra Orthodox Jews who are anti-zionist; because there is no temple in Jerusalem.

A Zionist is someone who believes that Israel has a right to the land that GOD promised them.

(explain about Mea Shearim from 1978 petitioning King Hussain of Jordan — and current implications)

Regarding the Branch — who is JESUS. We know that Paul spoke of the Root of Jesse.

Romans 15:12

“12 And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

Paul is quoting from Isaiah Chapter 11 verse 10 here. JESUS is our hope. Jesse we know was David’s father.

The Branch as looked at when we studied Zechariah Chapter 3 verses 8 to 10 has four different ways to be fulfilled.

The first as a branch of David, the royal line.

Jeremiah 23:5

“5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

The second would be the Servant, the BRANCH.

Zechariah 3:8

“8 ‘Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.”

The third would be the MAN whose name is Branch.

Zechariah 6:12

“12 Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: ‘Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord;’”

The fourth would be the BRANCH of LORD or Yehovah.

Isaiah 4:2

“2 In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped.”

Four different aspects of the Branch. Each represented in the four Gospels.
(Explain)

As the BRANCH JESUS is woven through the Scriptures.

Hebrews 10:7

“7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”

(explain the handout — put on the screen if possible.)

back to Zechariah

Zechariah 6:14–15

“14 “Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the Lord for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

15 Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

The crown shall be a memorial; while it points to JESUS; there are three people who are Kings and Priests in Scripture.

1. Melchizedek

2. JESUS

3. The Church

[Revelation 1:6](#)

“6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

For our service to the LORD; we will earn crowns from this life.

These crowns will be earned for JESUS, given by JESUS and presented back to JESUS.

The chapter ends with those from afar coming to build the temple of the LORD.

Is the coming tribulation temple going to be destroyed and perhaps rebuilt? Will this be one of our first jobs in the millennial kingdom?

Or will this temple be purged and cleansed the way the temple was cleansed by the Maccabees when Antiochus desecrated it?

Time will tell....

Let's pray.