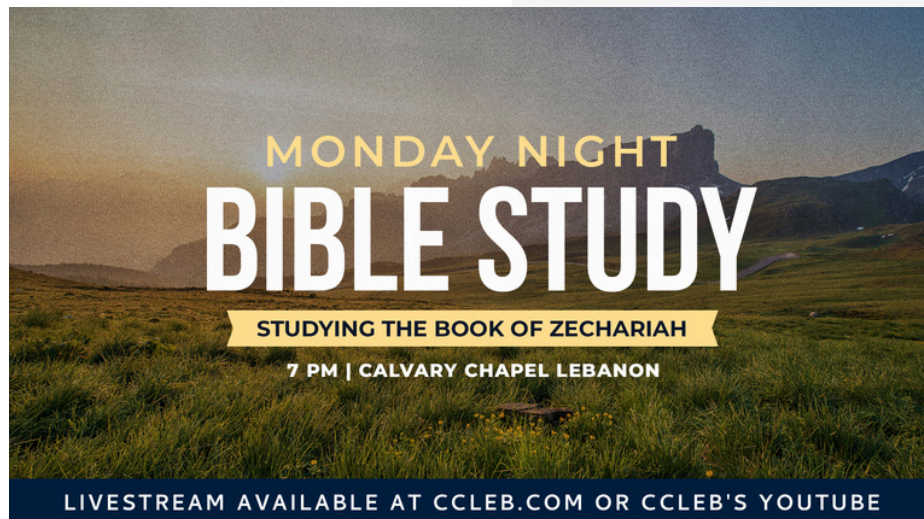


CCLEB BIBLE STUDY

NOTES

MONDAY JULY 28, 2025
ZECHARIAH 6

MATT KORFF



Verses 1-3 Here we have 4 chariots coming toward Zechariah from between 2 bronze mountains. In those days, chariots were like tanks. Chariots were the cutting edge technology, and whoever had them had the upper hand.

Chariots were usually drawn by one or two horses, the more horses, the more horse power you had. They were light weight and usually held 2 people: 1 to drive, the other to shoot arrows, thrust a javelin, or cut with a sword. Before a fighter on foot had time to think, usually a chariot was able to overtake them, and deal a decisive blow. In regular combat, chariots would make passes, going through the battle line, as many times as the horses had energy, then they would take a break, then go back in as needed.

The main point I am trying to get across by saying that, is that when Zechariah saw these chariots, and told the people about them, they were probably not awestruck by their beauty—like we would be today—but struck with fear. If this was written in our day, it would say something like: “I looked, and I saw 4 tanks, fully loaded, coming from between 2 bronze mountains.” Well, a spiritual horse is more powerful than a tank, but for us to have the same surprise as the Jews in Zechariah’s day, think of it that way.

Quick side note, a friend of mine from Tennessee—a retired dentist/Bible scholar—shared with me the way he does devotions, and I have been helped greatly by it. He said when he reads the Bible, he often thinks, “If I were writing this, what would I have said differently?” While that sounds like an odd practice, it is actually quite clever for application, because it gets you to see what it is that you wanting the passage to say vs. what the Bible actually says, because—quite honestly—we come to the Bible, often, with ideas about the passage we are reading, before we start to read it. Clear as mud?

Let me give you the example he gave me: in **1 Corinthians 14:26**, Paul says to the church, “What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for...” What do you think he says next?

Now I would have said, worship. But it says, “edification,” a 50-cent word for “building up.” So the verse says, “What then, brothers?”

When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building one another up.” This now gives me an opportunity to see that I have been viewing the way Paul talks about the purpose of church wrong. Church is meant to build the body of Christ to maturity. Worship—we often call singing songs worship—is one part of that, so is teaching/being taught, so is fellowship, service, discipleship, and the like. All these things are worship, because by doing them, we are being obedient to God.

Ok, that was a rabbit trail, you can all just keep your 50-cents, for the word edification.

But these horses represent the most feared military technology of the day. These two bronze mountains seem pretty interesting. One way to interpret that is the sun is rising or setting when Zechariah sees the mountains—there is a quote from a poem in a book called *The Outsiders*, a story that was turned into a movie—boy howdy, must have been back in the 80s or 90s—that says, “Nature’s first green is gold.” That has to do with the golden glow that the sun first casts on the ground before rising more fully.

But, I think this might be a reference to something else. So, Hebrews tells us that the Temple/Tabernacle were shadows of the real things in heaven. Just as lambs were sacrificed, so the heavenly Lamb was sacrificed. Just as the Temple had cherubim guarding the mercy seat, which is where God was thought to have sat, so the throne—as seen in Revelation and Ezekiel—is surrounded by Cherubim.

As for these two bronze mountains, the Temple had two bronze pillars named Jacin (He will establish) and Boaz (in Him is strength)

It may be that these horses are coming out of the heavenly Temple, to do God’s work.

As for the colors of the horses, we have red—which would be the normal description of a horse in the Middle East, black—which the root word there is “early morning,” and if you remember pastor Duane talking a month or so back, he mentioned that animal names in the Bible were descriptors about them, it would be like us, today, calling a dog—well, my dog—yapper or something like that. But early morning indicates a darker color. We have a white horse, interestingly, the word for white is Laban, which is the Patriarch Jacob’s uncle’s name, and a dappled horse—which means spotted, and that is the same word used for the sheep that Jacob was able to weasel out of his uncle Laban, when he served him for his daughters Leah and Rachel.

We are then given directions that these horses go: the black and white ones are going north, the NLT says the white horses are going West, but if you have a study NLT, or a different translation, you will see a note that says, “After them.” Or, behind them. More on that in a moment, but the dappled gray horses goes South. Well what about the red horses? Apparently they stay put.

Ok, so the bit about going West or going behind. In the Old Testament, there are no words for particular directions. The world was depicted as facing East.

Pastor Duane introduced the idea from the Bible that going east represents sin, and that’s right. Adam and Eve go East from the garden of Eden, Cain is banished to the East, Lot separates from Abraham Eastward, and Abraham is the first in the Bible to go West. As we see from the Temple, it faces East. The garden of Eden, the Temple face East, and the only way back in is West. Interesting that one of the two words for west is back, or behind. In other words, turn around. In Hebrew, **verse 1** says, “And I turned, and I saw.” That word for “turned” is the word Shuv, and it is the Old Testament word for repent. You may have heard that the New Testament word is Metanoia, and it means change your mind. But in the Old Testament it means to change your direction. “I turned.” This word comes up a lot of time as simply, turn, so repentance has the notion of turning back, back to what you were originally created for, back to God’s presence, back to God. The whole world is oriented toward pointing us to this concept.

This makes me think of **Romans 1:18-32**

God has made this obvious, even without reading the Bible, that He is God, and we need to turn toward Him, and the only way people get that wrong is because they suppress the truth. That means they know it, but they reject it so many times that they can't know it anymore. If you are hearing this and hear that voice calling you to turn away from your sins, to turn back to God, now is your best opportunity to respond to it, because you will go further and further East, until going West is impossible. Then, these horses will be coming back **Revelation 6**

Now, in these two different passages, **Revelation 6** and **Zechariah 6**, the horses have different jobs, but the same role: Judgment. Revelation tells us the red horse causes war, the black horse causes famine, the white horse (following it) has a bow but no arrows, and the pale horse, probably dappled, gets to unleash all sorts of death.

So, what can that tells us about these horses in Zechariah, well, the two going North are going to judge Babylon/Assyria/Persia, the one going South is going to judge Egypt, and not sure about the red horse, because it goes nowhere. Now, that is not to say that the red horse is not remaining in Judah to cause war, because, judging by the history of the times between the Old and New Testaments, that is not off limits, but the red horse may just not be needed yet.

By the way, we have been in the Minor Prophets on Monday night for about 2 years now. We are almost halfway through Zechariah, then Malachi is only 4 chapters. I spoke with pastor Thom, and we plan to have one or two classes about Jewish history between the Old and New Testaments, then jump into Matthew. The Minor Prophets, just like the whole Bible, are meant to point to the Messiah. The Old Testament is like a bottle neck of desire for the coming of the Messiah. The closer you get, the more the people desire Him. Well, put a cap on that bottle, shake it up, and that is the time between the testaments, so I look forward to that, and I hope you do too.

Often times, people get it twisted. They think the Old Testament is an angry God, whereas the New Testament is a totally different God. Like Jesus is love, and the Father barely tolerates us. But when you see things like, the angel in the Bush, as I described last week, the Angel as a spokesperson for Yahweh, you start to see that Jesus Himself is the God of the Old Testament. Jesus is the Word spoken at creation. Jesus is the one Who hardened pharaoh's heart, Jesus is the one Who punished the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus is the one Who spoke through the prophets. There is no change from Old Testament to New, as it pertains to the character of God.

I think one of the most direct connections that can be found is when Jesus says that John the Baptist is the Elijah to come. **Matthew 11:10/Malachi 3:1** NKJV

Opposition! It just might be that the Jews left the house in ruins because they were scared of what people would say and do if they started. They feared man more than God. So God, very, oh so much graciously, like He often does, reminds them, 13 times through Haggai, that He is Lord Sabaoth. The Lord of Hosts, Yahweh of Heaven's Armies. They need not fear. Even when it looks tough, they need not fear. Even when they don't have the resources, they need not fear. The cattle on a thousand hills are the Lord's. The gold in a thousand Fort Knoxes is His. The earth, AND its fullness is His. It's kind of like, if you own a house, why do you have to pay taxes? Because the land is yours, but not it's fullness. Well, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, why should I fear, of what shall I be afraid?

What stands in opposition to you today? Is it a task at work? A wayward child? Recent divorce, or death in the family? Is it someone you love's salvation? Bill? Living situation? Health?

Do you, in your own strength confide
Your striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on your side
The Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He
Lord Sabaoth His Name
From age to age, the same
And He must win the battle

Look to the promise of God, the promise that He is preparing a kingdom for you, that He knows His own, and has already, like, 2,000 years ago ransomed them from the dead. He knows the end from the beginning, will keep His own until the day of Christ, will conform them to the image of His Son Jesus Christ, owns the earth and its fullness, will vanquish the enemy, and He will not lose the battle.

Consider your own testimony. Does it seem to get worse before it gets better? Shouldn't we assume that with our loved ones, and the folks we are trying to evangelize? Pain is one of God's most powerful tools to bring people to Himself. Pray, pray and trust that God is working, Lord Sabaoth His Name, from age to age the same, and He will win the battle.