

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“When You Cannot Lift Your Head”

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Zech. 2:1-4 (1:18-21, NASV); Ex. 6:9; Jer. 30:11, 17-18; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Dan. 7:8-13; Ps. 18:2-3, 17-20, 28-36; Rom. 12:19

There are times when trouble seems to come from every direction. You try to move forward, and something pushes back. You look for evidence that God is working, but everything appears quiet. After enough disappointment, opposition, and delay, it becomes difficult even to lift your head. You may still believe that God is faithful, but the weight of what you have experienced has left you wondering when His faithfulness will become visible.

That is where the people of Judah were when Zechariah received this vision. They had returned to the land, but they had been hindered, intimidated, and discouraged. The nations around them appeared strong and at ease, while God's people struggled to rebuild. Yet the second vision was given as a continuation of the good and comforting words ADONAI had already spoken. God wanted His people to understand that the powers which had scattered them would not have the final word.

1. LIFT YOUR EYES AND RECOGNIZE WHAT HAS BEEN WORKING AGAINST YOU

Zechariah begins, *“Then I lifted up my eyes and behold, I saw four horns. I said to the angel speaking with me, ‘What are these?’ He said to me, ‘These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem’”* (Zech. 2:1-2). The Hebrew language in the expression “I lifted up my eyes” carries the picture of raising something that has become heavy. Zechariah had to look up. He was being invited to see beyond what was immediately in front of him and to understand the spiritual reality behind Israel's circumstances.

In Scripture, a horn represents strength, power, or the authority of a kingdom. The four horns picture the forces that had scattered and winnowed God's people. The number four may point toward the four great kingdoms described in Daniel, or it may represent enemies arising from every direction. Either way, the message is clear: wherever God's people turned, there appeared to be another enemy. Yet ADONAI saw every horn. He knew every power that had risen against His people, every force that had scattered them, and every source of the burden they carried.

2. ADONAI PERSONALLY REVEALS THE ANSWER HE IS RAISING UP

The vision then takes a surprising turn: *“Then ADONAI showed me four craftsmen”* (Zech. 2:3). It is not merely an interpreting angel who shows Zechariah what comes next. ADONAI Himself draws the prophet's attention to the craftsmen. The Lord is personally involved. He is not distant from the affliction of His people, and He is not unaware of the

powers that have risen against them. It is as though He says, “You have seen the horns. Now let Me show you what I am doing.”

The craftsmen were builders, artisans, and skilled workers. The same general term was used for those who helped build the Tabernacle and the Temple. Bezalel and Oholiab were craftsmen filled with the Spirit of God and empowered to accomplish the work He had given them. In the Greek Scriptures, the word used for a craftsman is *tekton*, the same word connected with Yeshua. He is not merely a carpenter who works with wood; He is the Craftsman, the Builder. The horns may appear powerful, but ADONAI is raising up craftsmen who know exactly how to deal with what the horns have done.

3. FOR EVERY HORN THAT RISES, GOD HAS A CRAFTSMAN

Zechariah asks, “*What are these coming to do?*” The Lord answers, “*These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to frighten them, to cast down the horns of the nations that have lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it*” (Zech. 2:4). The oppression had become so severe that no one could lift his head. It brings to mind Israel in Egypt, when the people could not listen to Moses because of their broken spirit and cruel bondage. They were not merely tired; they had been crushed beneath the weight of what they had endured.

But the ones who had frightened God’s people would themselves be frightened. The horns that had lifted themselves up would be cast down. Four craftsmen answer four horns, showing the totality of God’s provision. For every enemy raised against His people, God is able to raise a counteracting power. He may work through nations, leaders, circumstances, angels, or means that we cannot yet see, but He remains sovereign. Ultimately, every kingdom that lifts itself against God will fall before the kingdom of Messiah—the kingdom cut out without human hands that will endure forever.

CONCLUSION

The comforting message of this vision is not that God’s people will never face opposition. The vision acknowledges that enemies will rise, scattering will occur, and there may be seasons when the burden becomes so great that we cannot lift our heads. The comfort is that no horn rises without God seeing it, and no horn is stronger than the Craftsman He sends against it. ADONAI will keep His covenant with Israel. He will keep His promises. The nations may rage, but they cannot cancel what God has spoken.

Perhaps you have been living with your head bowed beneath the weight of something that has frightened, scattered, or crushed you. You may be tempted to defend yourself, vindicate yourself, or take matters into your own hands. Today, the Lord is inviting you to lift your eyes. Bring Him the enemy you cannot defeat, the injustice you cannot correct, and the situation you cannot rebuild by yourself. Release your need for vengeance and control. Trust the Builder. The craftsmen are coming, and the Lord is still at work even when you cannot yet see what He is building.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the four horns represent, and why would this image have been meaningful to the people of Judah?
2. Why is it significant that ADONAI Himself showed Zechariah the four craftsmen?
3. What does the presence of four craftsmen teach us about God's answer to the four horns?
4. Is there an area of your life where discouragement, fear, or disappointment has made it difficult for you to "lift your head"? What would lifting your eyes toward ADONAI look like today?
5. Are you trying to vindicate yourself or control the outcome of a situation that needs to be entrusted to God? What would it mean to release that situation into His hands?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, You are our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, and the horn of our salvation. When we are overwhelmed and cannot lift our heads, help us to lift our eyes toward You. Thank You that You see every power that rises against Your people and that You are never distant from our suffering. Forgive us for the times we have tried to vindicate ourselves, take vengeance, or control what only You can resolve. Teach us to trust Your timing, Your sovereignty, and Your covenant faithfulness. Strengthen those who are bowed down today, and remind us that for every horn that rises, You have a craftsman. Yeshua, our Builder and Messiah, establish Your kingdom in us and through us, and help us stand firm until everything that exalts itself against You is cast down.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.