

The “Never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah

Part 2

The book of Zechariah or the “Never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah contains the following: Judah’s Restoration, Ten Visions, sermons, Judgements, the Ant-Christ, Tribulation, Messiah’s Second Coming, Conversion of Israel, Armageddon, The Day of the Lord, Messiah’s Eternal Kingdom... those are just some of the things in this incredible book.

916 ZECHARIAH			
Judah's Restoration - Ten Visions - Sermons - Judgments - Antichrist - Tribulation - Messiah's Second Advent - Conversion of Israel - Armageddon - The Day of the Lord - Messiah's Eternal Kingdom			
<p>a The 8th month of the 2nd year of Darius I was 2 months after Haggai began to prophesy (v 1 with Hag. 1:1), or about one month after the temple foundation was laid in Jerusalem (v 1 with Hag. 2:18)</p> <p>b See Zechariah, p. 924</p> <p>c See Berechiah, p. 924</p> <p>d See <u>Iddo</u>, p. 924</p> <p>e 35 commands in Zechariah, p. 928</p> <p>f Questions 1-3, Next, v 9</p> <p>g This second message was given 3 months after the one of v 1-6 - on the 24th day of the 11th month (February) in the 2nd year of Darius I (v 7)</p> <p>h See 10 visions of Zechariah, p. 928</p> <p>i The riders of the horses-red, speckled, and white-are invisible agencies of God sent forth into the earth to accomplish various missions. They are God's scouts that report conditions to Him. These reported that all the earth was still and at peace (v 8-11). The horses are not symbolic at all, but real and literal creatures, actual spirit horses created to live on the planet heaven and used by those going back and forth between earth and heaven for the purpose seen here, and perhaps in many other capacities. That spirit horses do exist is clear from v 8-11; 6:1-8; 2 Ki. 2:11; 2:14-15.</p>	<p>912 CHAPTER 1</p> <p>I Message to restored Judah. 1 Title, author, and historical background (Ezra 6:1, 12, 15)</p> <p>IN the “eighth month, in the second year of Dā-rī’us, came the word of the LORD unto Zēch-a-rī’ah, the son of Bēr-e-chī’ah, the son of ʿĪd’ō the prophet, saying,</p> <p>2 Admonition to return to God</p> <p>2 The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.</p> <p>3 Therefore say thou unto them, <u>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.</u></p>	<p>and is at rest.</p> <p>(3) Judgment on Judah's enemies</p> <p>12 ¶ Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, “how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jê-rû’sâ-lēm and on the cities of Jû’dah, against which thou hast had indignation these <u>three-score and ten years?</u>”</p> <p>13 And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me <u>with good words and comfortable words.</u></p> <p>14 So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, <u>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jê-rû’sâ-lēm and for Zi’ôn with a great jealousy.</u></p> <p>15 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease; for I was but a</p>	<p>a Question 5. Next, v 19</p> <p>b This was to be the whole time of the Babylonian captivity (v 12; Jer. 25:11-12; Dan. 9:2). At this point both Daniel and the Angel were concerned about the fulfillment of the predictions of Jer. 24. Since this Angel was one of the Divine Persons of the Trinity, it demonstrates that God was as interested in the return of Israel, after the 70 years, as Daniel. God does not forget His predictions</p> <p>c The Lord God now spoke to the Angel who talked with the prophet; and His words were good and comfortable, which He passed on to Zechariah (v 13-19)</p> <p>d Angels can commune with men (v 14; Heb. 1:14; note n, Heb. 13:1)</p> <p>e 3fold displeasure of God:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 I am jealous for Zion and Jerusalem with great jealousy (v 14) 2 I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease (v 15) 3 I was but a little displeased with them until they helped forward the affliction of My people <p>f 1st prophecy in Zech. (1:16-17, fulfilled). Next, v 18</p> <p><u>6 predictions-fulfilled:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 I am returned to Jerusalem

Back story: The prophet Zechariah ministered at the same time as Haggai. They both had been captives in Babylon, and returned to Judah when Cyrus released the prisoners. The building of the temple had been delayed 16 years, after the first people released had built the foundation.

There was much opposition to its being built, and the people had been busy building their own homes. They planted their crops again, also, the “Never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah and the “Never Wrong” Haggai preached, that the reason for their poor crops was the fact they had not rebuilt the Temple.

The same neglect of God's work was still in the land. They had spent 70 years in captivity to cause them to repent of this complacency toward God in the Babylonian Empire. The opening 6 verses of Zechariah provide an introduction to the entire prophecy in which the prophet calls upon the people to repent and never again repeat the past sins of their fathers.

This is a repeating story... the New Testament writers continually refer back to the Old Testament to remind the listener of the danger of going back/falling away from their present condition of habitual righteousness or obedience.

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 For I am the Lord, I change not;

Hebrews 13:8 KJV

8 Jesus Christ (the Word John 1:1) the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

This is Paul reminding the church in Corinth...

1 Corinthians 10:1-11 AMPC

1 For I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, that our forefathers were all under and protected by the cloud [in which God's Presence went before them], and every one of them passed safely through the [Red] Sea,

2 And each one of them [allowed himself also] to be baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea [they were thus brought under obligation to the Law, to Moses, and to the covenant, consecrated and set apart to the service of God];

3 And all [of them] ate the same spiritual (supernaturally given) food,
4 And they all drank the same spiritual (supernaturally given) drink. For they drank from a spiritual Rock which followed them [produced by the sole power of God Himself without natural instrumentality], and the Rock was Christ.

5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with the great majority of them, for they were overthrown and strewn down along [the ground] in the wilderness.

6 Now these things are examples (warnings and admonitions) for us not to desire or crave or covet or lust after evil and carnal things as they did.

7 Do not be worshipers of false gods as some of them were, as it is written, **The people sat down to eat and drink [the sacrifices offered to the golden calf at Horeb] and rose to sport (to dance and give way to jesting and hilarity).**

8 **We must not gratify evil desire and indulge in immorality as some of them did**—and twenty-three thousand [suddenly] fell dead in a single day!

9 **We should not tempt the Lord [try His patience,** become a trial to Him, critically appraise Him, and exploit His goodness] as some of them did—and were killed by poisonous serpents;

10 Nor discontentedly complain as some of them did—and were [a]put out of the way entirely by the destroyer (death).

11 Now these things befell them by way of a figure [as an example and warning to us]; they were written to admonish and fit us for right action by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax (their consummation and concluding period).

Jude reminded the modern day church as well...

Jude 1-8 AMPC

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and brother of James, [writes this letter] to those who are called (chosen), dearly loved by God the Father and separated (set apart) and kept for Jesus Christ:

2 May mercy, [soul] peace, and love be multiplied to you.

3 Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all [a]handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].

4 For certain men have crept in stealthily [[c]gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

5 Now I want to remind you, though you were fully informed once for all, that though the Lord [at one time] delivered a people out of the land of Egypt, He subsequently destroyed those [of them] who did not believe [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him].

6 And angels who did not keep (care for, guard, and hold to) their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place—these He has reserved in custody in eternal chains (bonds) under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgment and doom of the great day.

7 [The wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns—which likewise gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity—are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire.

8 Nevertheless in like manner, these dreamers also corrupt the body, scorn and reject authority and government, and revile and libel and scoff at [heavenly] glories (the glorious ones).

Jude is pulling forward what was already spoken by the “Never Wrong” Prophet Isaiah regarding “these dreamers”. They are pastors, preachers and teacher who pervert the grace of God into immorality in the Body of Christ. The Prophet Isaiah called the mouthpiece(s) of God - dumb dogs who can’t bark and blind watchmen... Jesus said many pastors, preachers and teachers or mouth pieces of God will deceive many.

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

Note: _____

Here is the “Never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah...

Zechariah 1:1 AMPC

1 In the eighth month, in the second year [of the reign] of Darius, came the word of the Lord to Zechariah son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, the prophet, saying,

Note: There are at least 30 different Zechariah's mentioned in the Old Testament alone. It is also the most frequently occurring personal name in the Bible (also spelled Zachariah or in the New Testament as Zacharias). It is important to note that the “son of Berechiah is specifically mentioned as to the specific Zechariah that is being referred to not just in this book but Jesus also specifies the “son of Berechiah” as well.

Matthew 23:34-36 AMPC

34 Because of this, take notice: I am sending you prophets and wise men (interpreters and teachers) and scribes (men learned in the Mosaic Law and the Prophets); some of them you will kill, even crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue and persecute from town to town,

*35 So that upon your heads may come all the blood of the righteous (those who correspond to the divine standard of right) shed on earth, **from the blood of the righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah**, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar [of burnt offering].*

36 Truly I declare to you, all these [evil, calamitous times] will come upon this generation.

Back to Zechariah chapter 1:1....

The message is dated in the eighth month, in the second year of Darius. This would be (November, 520 B.C.), two months after the prophet Haggai began his ministry. By his lineage “Zechariah” identifies himself as a priest, and by his reception of this prophecy he is established as a prophet.

Most Old Testament prophets who dated their prophecies did so according to the reign of a King in Israel, Judah or both. Haggai and Zechariah date their prophecies according to the reign of the Gentile King, indicating that the times of the Gentiles had begun.

Luke 21:20-28 AMPC

20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know and understand that its desolation has come near.

21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside [the city] get out of it, and let not those who are out in the country come into it;

22 For those are days of vengeance [of rendering full justice or satisfaction], that all things that are written may be fulfilled.

23 Alas for those who are pregnant and for those who have babies which they are nursing in those days! For great misery and anguish and distress shall be upon the land and indignation and punishment and retribution upon this people.

24 They will fall by [a]the mouth and the edge of the sword and will be led away as captives to and among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (completed).

25 And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth [there will be] distress (trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity [[b]without resources, left wanting, embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn] at the roaring ([c]the echo) of the tossing of the sea,

26 Men swooning away or expiring with fear and dread and apprehension and expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken and [d]caused to totter.

27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great (transcendent and overwhelming) power and [all His kingly] glory (majesty and splendor).

28 Now when these things begin to occur, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.

It is very interesting to me, that this message came to Zechariah the month between the 7th and 9th month that God gave Haggai messages. It seemed, the message was the same from both. Perhaps, this was to confirm the messages. The Scriptures say, by two a thing shall be established. (Deuteronomy 19:15, and is quoted in 2 Corinthians 13:1 and Matthew 18:16)

Zechariah 1:2 AMPC

2 The Lord was very angry with your fathers.

God is not angry with those who are returning but with their forefathers which was the cause or reason for the Babylonian captivity... “The LORD hath been sore displeased” (KJV):

This actually means “to break out in long-controlled indignation,” reminding the people of the severity of God’s wrath and the necessity of His judgment on their past sins in pre-Exilic times. The fathers whom this is speaking of, are those who committed spiritual adultery, and caused God to send them into captivity for 70 years. The land was destroyed, and so was the temple.

3 Therefore say to them [the Jews of this day], Thus says the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you; it is the utterance of the Lord of hosts.

“The LORD of hosts”: This frequently used name for God shows His might as the commander of the hosts, whether they are the armies of Israel (2 Chron. 26:11), the armies of the heathen nations (Judges 4:2), or the heavenly inhabitants (1 Kings 22:19).

“Return to me”: The prophet begins with a call to repentance, to prevent any false security on the part of Israel: i.e., thinking that God would bless His chosen people regardless of their spiritual condition. This expresses the ongoing desire of God (Gen. 17:7; Lev. 26:12; Ezek. 37:27; 2 Cor. 6:16; James 4:8; Rev. 21:3), and the constant condition for blessing.

God wanted their love and their faithfulness. The captivity had been to teach them to obey God, and to turn from false gods. When they reach out to God, He is always there to reach out to them. God loves them, and wants to bless them, but He will not force Himself upon them.

4 Be not as your fathers to whom the former prophets cried, Thus says the Lord of hosts: Return now from your evil ways and your evil doings; but they would not hear or listen to Me, says the Lord.

“Be ye not as your fathers”: The disobedient, obstinate behavior of their fathers was not so much directed toward the prophets, but at God Himself. The people were well aware of their fathers’ sins (Ezra 9:7), and could look around them and see the results.

Ezra 9:7 AMPC

7 Since the days of our fathers we have been exceedingly guilty; and for our willfulness we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, captivity, plundering, and utter shame, as it is today.

History should have taught them to repent. “The former prophets”: This is a reference primarily to the prophets who ministered prior to the Babylonian captivity. To the pre-Exilic prophets who all preached the same message of repentance before the Exile, e.g., Isaiah and Jeremiah (Zechariah 1:6).

They chose to believe the false prophets which were prophesying good times. They did not heed the warning that God had sent them by the true prophets. God had to prove to them, that what He warned of, He would do. Now, they should remember the punishment that God sent on them before. It should not be so difficult to get them to listen to the warnings from God. Their captivity was still fresh on their minds.

5 Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

While both their fathers and the former prophets were dead, the legacy of their fathers’ failure to heed the prophets’ warnings was now at the forefront of their thoughts.

Also, was the reminder of the city of Jerusalem and the temple lying in ruins, needing to be rebuilt. The unfaithful generation died while they were in captivity... they do not live forever. They not only died, but died in a foreign land under terrible circumstances. This should encourage these people to respond more quickly to God's warning.

6 But My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, did they not overtake and take hold of your fathers? So they repented and said, As the Lord of hosts planned and purposed to do to us, according to our ways and according to our doings, so has He dealt with us.

God's Word accomplishes all which He designs (Isa. 55:10-11), in blessing and in judgment.

Isaiah 55:10-11 AMPC

10 For as the rain and snow come down from the heavens, and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

*11 So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: **it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***

His warnings, were fulfilled and they overtook and destroyed their fathers, who recognized God's hand in the judgment (Lam. 2:17; Ezra 9:6). **The Exile was positive proof that God punishes those who sin and reject His warnings.**

"They repented" (Dan. 9:1-19). This is proclaiming to them, that the warnings the prophets brought to them came to pass. The punishment was promised, from Isaiah and Jeremiah ... it took awhile, God was patient, but it did come.

The true prophets spoke with inspiration of God. Their Words were actually God's Words in the prophets' mouths. The fathers and grandfathers had told their children why they were in captivity, so they would not disobey God and wind up in the same predicament.

There are several night visions that occurred in the book of Zechariah. The first is most important because it provides a key for understanding the others. The overall message of these visions for the nation of Zechariah's day was "The LORD is with you; therefore, build the temple."

These visions outlined the prophetic program for Israel from the time of restoration from the Babylonian captivity to the the Millennial reign of Christ which follows the 7 year tribulation. (Daniel, Ezekiel, Revelation)

7 Upon the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of the reign of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, the prophet. Zechariah said,

“The four and twentieth day of the eleventh month” (Jan./Feb. 519 B.C.). Approximately 3 months after Zechariah’s opening call to repentance. This message comes 3 months after the first message. Haggai's last message had been spoken about two months prior to this message of Zechariah's. This month is approximately February on our calendar.

8 I saw in the night [vision] and behold, a [a]Man riding upon a red horse, and He stood among the myrtle trees that were in a low valley or bottom, and behind Him there were horses, red, bay or flame-colored, and white.

“I saw in the night”: This is the first vision revealing God’s plan for Jerusalem, which begins with the sight of “a man ... riding on a red horse.” Because of the strength of horses, they became symbols of war. Red is often the symbol of blood, hence judgment (Isa. 63:1-4; Rev. 6:3).

The colors may speak of the work of the riders: red speaking of bloodshed and judgment (Isa. 63:1-2), white speaking of victory (Rev. 19:11), and speckled or a brownish color is possible a combination of the others. A similar picture is found (in Rev. 6:1-8).

9 Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the [b]angel who talked with me said, I will show you what these are.

“The angel that talked with me” This interpreting angel (1:13-14, 19; 2:3; 3:1; 4:1), is to be distinguished from the Angel of the LORD (verses 11-12).

The key word in this is “what”. We know from this, that whatever they are is symbolic. Notice, also, this is not the LORD, but the one he is speaking to is an angel.

10 And the Man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the Lord has sent to walk to and fro through the earth and patrol it.

“Walk to and fro”: A symbolic military description of angelic movement patrolling and reconnoitering on a global scale.

11 And the men on the horses answered [c]the Angel of the Lord Who stood among the myrtle trees and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth [patrolling it] and behold, all the earth sits at rest [in peaceful security].

“Behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest”: In contrast to the difficulties facing the exiles, without temple or city walls, the heathen nations were superficially at rest, occupied with their own selfish interests (verse 15).

This was generally the condition in the second year of Darius. The contrast makes the plight of Israel all the more distressing and the hope for the fulfillment (of Hag. 2:7; 2:22), more intense. They have searched the earth, and found a time when there is relative peace upon the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 AMPC

3 When people are saying, All is well and secure, and, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction (ruin and death) will come upon them as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape.

Note: _____

12 Then the Angel of the Lord said, O Lord of hosts, how long will You not have mercy and lovingkindness for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which You have had indignation these seventy years [of the Babylonian captivity]?

“The angel of the LORD”: The Angel of the LORD interceded to God the Father on behalf of Israel, pleading for the withdrawal of God’s chastening hand. The “seventy years” refers to God’s words to Jeremiah concerning the length of Judah’s exile (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10).

Jeremiah 25:11-12 AMPC

11 And this whole land shall be a waste and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon [a]seventy years.

12 Then when seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, says the Lord, for their iniquity, and will make the land [of the Chaldeans] a perpetual waste.

This one Scripture makes us think this is speaking of the immediate time of Zechariah. The 70 years are for the 70 years in Babylon captivity. Babylon symbolizes the world. This is a cry similar to the saints that cry in heaven.

Revelation 6:10 AMPC

10 They cried in a loud voice, O [Sovereign] Lord, holy and true, how long now before You will sit in judgment and avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?

Just before the coming of the Lord Jesus as King, this will still be the cry. The Lord is our intercessor. He pleads the believer’s case continually before the Father.

13 And the Lord answered the angel who talked with me with gracious and comforting words.

“Gracious and comforting words”:

The content of these words is given in verses 14-17): God still loved Jerusalem (verse 14), He was angry with the nations who afflicted them (verse 15), and He will bring prosperity to Jerusalem (verses 16-17).

The LORD answers with reassuring Words, that He is concerned about His people. God does care, His time is not the same as our time.

14 So the angel who talked with me said to me, Cry out, Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.

“I am jealous for Jerusalem”: God first described Himself as jealous when making His covenant with Israel (Exodus 20:5; 34:14). This same jealousy had been experienced by Israel in punishment (Deut. 29:18-28; Ezek. 5:13). That same jealous love is expressed emphatically in the city’s defense.

This is speaking of the holy city, and is also speaking of the church. The jealousy here, is love to the extreme. God loves His people.

15 And I am very angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was but a little displeased, they helped forward the affliction and disaster.

Moved by His great love for His people, the LORD acted in anger (verse 2), against the nations which mistreated His people. Although they were His instrument of judgment against Israel, they had exceeded God’s instructions in their punishment. They did not understand that God’s intention was to punish for a time and then show compassion (Isa. 54:7-8).

God was displeased with the heathen that lived around Jerusalem. He is also displeased today with the heathen world that has no desire to come to Him and be saved. Babylon, and the other nations, that attacked God's people in such cruel manner were some that He was displeased with. Today, there are nations who do not accept God, these are heathen nations.

16 Therefore thus says the Lord: I have returned to Jerusalem with compassion (lovingkindness and mercy). My house shall be built in it, says the Lord of hosts, and a measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem [with a view to rebuilding its walls].

Not only would the Temple be rebuilt which at that time had only foundations (Hag. 2:18), but the city itself would again expand due to the prosperity (Isa. 40:9-10).

The wall was completed 75 years later. This is speaking of the temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem. Jesus will set up His kingdom headquartered in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the measure that all will be measured by. We saw in one of the other prophetic books, this same line which measured the city of Jerusalem and the temple area.

17 Cry yet again, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts: My cities shall yet again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

God would again comfort Jerusalem (Isa. 40:1-2; 51:3, 12), and would again choose it as the place of His earthly throne (Psalm 132:13). This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom of Messiah (Rev. 20). Given the fact that the returning Jews lost sight of their priorities (Hag. 1:1-12), this message reaffirmed God's plan.

Note: The Millennial Kingdom will provide the presence of God in Jerusalem (Ezek. 48:35), a glorious temple (Ezek. chapters 40 thru 48), a rebuilt Jerusalem (Jer. 31:38-40), the nations punished (Matt. 25:31-46), the prosperity of Judah's cities (Isa. 60:4-9), the blessedness of the people (Zech. 9:17), and the comfort of Zion (Isa. 14:1).

This is speaking of Jerusalem as the capital of the world, when Jesus reigns. Jews from all over the world are returning to Israel now and they shall prosper greatly, because the blessing of God is upon them.

The second night vision adds details to the judgment of the nations who persecuted His Israel, building upon God's promise to comfort His people (1:13, 17).

18 Then I lifted up my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns [symbols of strength].

The "four horns" (the second vision, verses 18-21), are representative of the four Gentile world powers, earlier introduced by Daniel (Dan. 2, 7 and 8). Metaphorically, the "horn" was applied to the strength of governments, and was used representatively of nations (Dan. 8:3-4; Mic 4:13).

"Horns" symbolize power, and the number "four" symbolizes universal. This is speaking of universal power.

19 And I said to the angel who talked with me, What are these? And he answered me, These are the horns or powers which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.

"The four horns which scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem, are four nations, Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Grecian and Romans; as the LORD, on the prophet's enquiry, explains here. Daniel unfolds this fully (in Daniel 2); who in the vision of the image with golden head, silver breast, belly and thighs of brass, feet of iron and clay, explained of these four nations.

Again, in another vision of four beasts (in Daniel 7); lion, bear, leopard and another dreadful beast that comes at the end of the Roman Empire. (Daniel and Revelation)

Daniel 7:1-8 AMPC

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions in his head as he was lying upon his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the gist of the matter.

2 Daniel said, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of the heavens [political and social agitations] were stirring up the great sea [the nations of the world]. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea in succession, and different from one another.

4 The first [the Babylonian empire under Nebuchadnezzar] was like a lion and had eagle's wings. I looked till the wings of it were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand upon two feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 And behold another beast, a second one [the Medo-Persian empire], was like a bear, and it raised up itself on one side [or one dominion] and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, Arise, devour much flesh.

6 After this I looked, and behold, another [the Grecian empire of Alexander the Great], like a leopard which had four wings of a bird on its back. The beast had also four heads [Alexander's generals, his successors], and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast [the Roman empire]—terrible, powerful and dreadful, and exceedingly strong. And it had great iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled what was left with its feet. And it was different from all the beasts that came before it, and it had ten horns [symbolizing ten kings].

8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things.

Note: The Grecian Empire beast with 4 heads or horns which represents the 4 generals that took over the Empire or Beast System after Alexandra committed suicide. The general is later identified as the one who ruled over Iraq, Lebanon and Syria and is called the anti- christ.

Revelation 13:1-3 AMPC

1 [As] [a] I stood on the sandy beach, I saw a beast coming up out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads. On his horns he had ten royal crowns (diadems) and blasphemous titles (names) on his heads.

*2 And the beast that I saw resembled a **leopard**, but his feet were like those of a **bear** and his mouth was like that of a **lion**. And to him the dragon gave his [own] might and power and his [own] throne and great dominion.*

3 And one of his heads seemed to have a deadly wound. But his death stroke was healed; and the whole earth went after the beast in amazement and admiration.

The “never Wrong” Prophet Zechariah pointed out the same nations. When this vision took place, the kingdom of the Babylonians had now passed away, the Medes and Persians was instant. The Grecian and Roman Empire was still to come.

20 Then the Lord showed me four smiths or workmen [one for each enemy horn, to beat it down].

Zechariah 1:20 KJV

20 And the Lord shewed me four carpenters.

“Four carpenters”: The word is literally the term for stone workers, metal workers, and wood workers, those who shape material with hammers and chisels. These “Hammers” represent the nations which overthrow the 4 horns (verse 18). As with the 4 beasts (of verse 7), each empire is overthrown by the subsequent one, the last being replaced by Messiah’s kingdom (Dan. 2:44; 7:9-14, 21-22).

Babylon was hammered in a night attack by the Medo-Persians (539 B.C.). The Roman Empire, revived in the last days, according to Daniel, will be hammered by the returning Messiah (Dan. 2:34-35, 45).

21 Then said I, What are these [horns and smiths] coming to do? And he said, These are the horns or powers that scattered Judah so that no man lifted up his head. But these smiths or workmen have come to terrorize them and cause them to be panic-stricken, to cast out the horns or powers of the nations who lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.

Zechariah 1:21 KJV

21 Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.

The "Gentile" powers which "scattered" Judah, will be crushed. For every enemy of God's people, God has provided a counteracting power that is adequate to destroy it. The angel is speaking here.. the horns are they that scattered Judah, and lay them helpless. The enemies of Judah had not only defeated them, but scattered them to the winds.

Luke 21:24 AMPC

24 They will fall by [a]the mouth and the edge of the sword and will be led away as captives to and among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled (completed).

Luke 21:24 KJV

*24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.***



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