**The Visions of Zechariah**

   The book of Zechariah is a post-exile book. It was written after Israel has finished its 70 years in exile in Babylon.

**Chapter One**

**1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,**

   Notice the timing of the book: Zechariah prophecies in the second year of Darius the Mede which would have been in 520 B.C.

   This means he prophesied at the same time as Haggai who in the book that goes by his name, its prophesying occurs in the same year as that of Zechariah but in a different month. Both of these two prophets prophesied about the temple being rebuilt.

   Berechiah and Iddo the prophet are mentioned throughout Ezra and Nehemiah.

**2 The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers. 3 Therefore say thou unto them, 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. 4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.**

The LORD was sore displeased with Israel because they had turned away from Him and when he had sent the former prophets (the pre-exile prophets) to them they did not hearken unto them and turn from their evil ways and doings and for that very reason Israel was taken into captivity by the Babylonians.

   The LORD then pleads with the children of these covenant breakers to turn unto him and to not make the same mistakes as they did, and the LORD will turn unto them. The LORD then continues to reason with the next generation through the prophecy of Zechariah by asking some rhetorical questions of them:

**5 Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? 6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.**

   The LORD asks where are your fathers and the former prophets? They are dead is the correct answer of course, but then the LORD goes on and asks another question that they know the answer to as well:

   Did not the LORD's words and statutes take hold on your fathers? Yes of course they did, and their fathers eventually said the same thing that the LORD has done unto us (the fathers) as he said he would do by sending them into captivity.

**The First Vision**

**A Man riding a Red Horse**

**7 Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, 8 I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white.**

   Zechariah sees a night vision, not a dream, for in a dream God would have to give someone the ability to interpret the dream but because it is a vision the LORD will interpret it himself.

   In this night vision Zechariah sees **a man riding upon a red horse** who stood among **the myrtle trees** that were in the bottom and behind him were more red horses, along with speckled and white horses.

**9 Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.**

   Notice that Zechariah doesn't ask specifically about what the man riding the red horse means, but instead he asks, **"What do these mean?"** He asks about all them. We learn in this verse that Zechariah was asking an angel, "what are these". We will see who the angel was in a few verses.

   The word angel simply means a messenger. When the word angel is used you must use the context of the passage to determine if it is an actual angel or someone else that is delivering a message, don't just assume something.

**10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth. 11 And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.**

   Again we see that the person riding the red horse is "a man" who is a messenger. He (the man) stood among the myrtle trees, and it was the man that was riding the red horse that answered Zechariah.

   The man on the red horse that stood among the myrtle trees said that the ones behind him were the ones that the LORD hath sent to **walk** to and fro through the earth.

   Notice that it does not say that they were sent to **run** to and fro. I say that because in Zechariah 4:10 we are introduced to **"the eyes of the LORD"** who **run to and fro** through all the earth (do not assume they are the same they are not).

   Notice however the response of the ones who were sent by the LORD to walk to and fro through the earth: They answered the man that was standing among the myrtle trees and Zechariah now identifies the man as **the angel of the LORD**.

   Who else is called the angel of the LORD often in scripture? None other than the Lord Jesus Christ in a pre-incarnate appearance also known as a Theophany.

   And the ones who were sent to walk to and fro spoke (which leads me to believe it was not the horses behind him because there is only one talking horse (donkey/ass) in the bible that Baalam rode, but these horses most likely all had riders upon them).

   The horses only escorted them to the earth from the heavenlies where they would then dismount them and begin walking to and fro in the earth. Once they finished walking to and fro through in the earth, they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees that the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.

   We must also understand who or what the myrtle trees represent that the angel of the LORD is standing amongst and for the answer to this we need to search the scriptures for clues as to who they are.

  The word myrtle is used only six times and three of them are in this chapter. Two of them are in Isaiah and they both have to do with actual trees that will bloom in the desert during the kingdom reign of Christ on the earth.

   In Isaiah 55:13 there is a possible hint that they represent the nation of Israel. So you would have these riders going to and fro through the earth amongst the myrtle trees (Jewish people) checking on them while they are dispersed in all the earth.

   The only other time they are mentioned is in Nehemiah which happens to be a sister companion to this book covering the rebuilding of Jerusalem. In Nehemiah they are commanded to make booths (tabernacles) to dwell in using myrtle which makes sense because in the kingdom Christ will tabernacle among Israel in the land.

**12 Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?**

   Now the angel of the LORD asks the LORD of hosts when he will have mercy on Jerusalem and the nation of Judah who had been in captivity for the last 70 years.

**13 And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words. 14 So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. 15 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.**

   The heathen that are the gentile nations that the LORD allowed to take Judah and Jerusalem into captivity but now they were at ease and were comfortable with their Jewish captives staying among them and the LORD wanted them to depart to serve him.

**16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem. 17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.**

The Temple will be rebuilt the LORD declared and it was in near future with Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel.

**The Second Vision**

**The Four Horns**

**18 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns. 19 And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.**

The four horns are the four world kingdoms and their kings that have scattered Israel mentioned in Daniel. They are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greecia (Alexander the Great is even referred to as the little horn in Daniel), and Rome (said to have seven heads and 10 horns in Revelation).

**20 And the LORD shewed me four carpenters. 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.**

Notice the horns are identified here as the Gentile kingdoms and their kings that scattered the land of Judah. These four carpenters are come to fray the four horns or to cast them out of the holy land to purge it once the LORD had punished them for forsaking him.

**Chapter Two**

**His Holy Habitation**

**1 I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.**

   This is also mentioned in Jeremiah 31:39 in regard to Jerusalem. New Jerusalem is also measured in Revelations 21. This is not the same as the measuring of the Temple area found in Revelations 11:1 & 2, this is the whole city here.

**3 And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, 4 And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: 5 For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.**

This also is a reference to the Millennial Kingdom when Christ is reigning in Jerusalem. This is not now nor anytime in the last 3,000 years.

**6 Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD. 7 Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon. 8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.**

Israel had most favoured nation status with the LORD and was the apple of his eye while she was in obedience to the Covenant she had made with the LORD but now she is Loammi (not his people and he is not their God) because of their playing the harlot with other gods.

   Israel will once again be the apple of God's eye when God redeems them out of all the nations at the end of the time of Jacob's Trouble.

   Most people like to say that when they see Jews leaving Russia that this is a fulfillment of this and other prophecies, but the LORD will cause all of his elect from all four corners of the earth to depart from their lands where they are and return to establish their Kingdom after the great tribulation period ends.

**9 For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.**

  The LORD will shake those that are holding Israel captive as servants at the end of the tribulation period, and he will gather them back into the land in a day. A nation shall be born again in a day!

**10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. 11 And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. 12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. 13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.**

This is all about Israel in her kingdom and how the Gentile nations will serve the LORD in that day.

**Chapter Three**

**The BRANCH**

**1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.**

 Joshua was there as the high priest during the days of Zechariah as the LORD was using them to rebuild the Temple and Satan was behind the scenes trying to stop the work of the LORD before it got going. He is mentioned six times in the book of Zechariah and five times in the book of Haggai as the high priest at the time of Zechariah's prophecy.

**2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?**

Israel is the brand plucked out of the fire of Satan's grasp. Satan had caused Israel to turn from following the LORD and the LORD himself rebukes Satan when it is time to set up the LORD'S kingdom and in order to do that Satan has to release those he has held captive all these years.

   Israel was and still is today legal captives of Satan because they had rebelled against the LORD andwhen Israel has paid what they owe the LORD**(All 70 weeks mentioned in Daniel)**then the LORD will rebuke Satan and cause him to let his captives free.

   All those in Abraham's bosom will be set free and resurrected at the last day when Christ commands all the dead to rise. These are only the dead that were saved under Israel's Prophecy Program. This is not a reference to the Church which is Christ's body, we are already in heaven.

**3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.**

   Joshua was a representative of the nation of Israel and since they had defiled their garments by sinning as a nation that is how Joshua appeared before the LORD.

  Since Israel had done her time in captivity (70 years) for her previous sins as a nation the LORD was giving the nation a new opportunity to serve him with a clean slate (clean garments).

   You may be wondering, "Does the LORD punish other nations as he punished Israel?" The answer is no! Israel is not numbered among the other nations because Israel is a special nation that God has set aside for a specific purpose that no other nation has.

   Israel is God's choice to be the nation through whom he will bring the Messiah into the world, and he has already done that, but it is also the nation that God has chosen to use to usher in a future kingdom on this earth to rule and reign with the Messiah during that Messianic Age.

   They are different because they were chosen to be different from all the other nations, so you cannot look at them as you look at any other nation. We had better be glad God doesn't treat the U.S.A. like he treated Israel in her past or we would be destroyed as a nation for our sins.

**5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by. 6 And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.**

  The LORD promised to Joshua the high priest after he had cleansed him of his filthy garments that as long as he would be obedient unto the LORD then the LORD would allow him to judge the LORD'S house **(the house of Israel).**

**8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.**

   In Isaiah 4:2, 11:1, and Jeremiah 23:5, and 33:15 the Messiah is mentioned as the Branch, and they are in reference to his setting up his kingdom here on the earth.

**9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. 10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.**

   In one day the LORD will remove iniquity (the Day of Atonement) from the land and the dead will be raised to enter into their kingdom at the end of the 70th week of Daniel and at the onset of the Kingdom.

   Paradise will be emptied of its inhabitants and all who are not a part of the body of Christ, and they (the meek) will inherit the earth and they rule and reign with the Messiah on the earth (Matthew 5:5).

   The Church which is Christ's body has a heavenly destiny and will not rule on the earth, but we shall manifest his glory in the heavenly places. This is the Mystery Program spoken of only by the Apostle of the Gentiles (Paul).

   What Zechariah speaks about here is Israel's Prophecy Program. He knew nothing of the dispensation of grace that we are in today because it was a secret kept hid in God from before the foundation of the world.

   Zechariah wrote that in that day every man would be your neighbor, because they will beat their swords into plowshares (in the Kingdom).

**Chapter Four**

**The Two Olive Trees?**

**1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, 2 And said unto me,** **What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:**

  The candlestick is called the Menorah which is something that Zechariah should have been familiar as it was a part of Israel's worship in the Temple but remember they had been in rebellion and now captivity for the last 560 years and had lost touch with a lot of what they used to know and practice.

  G0d was reintroducing Israel to doing things his way again. The pipes are something that is different. Each one flows oil into the lamps. We will look at them later on in this chapter.

**3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. 4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? 5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.**

   What are the two olive trees that sat on opposite sides of the bowl? For the answer to this question which is asked three times in this chapter we must wait until we get to verses eleven to fourteen.

   One thing that should stick out like the nose on your face is that everything is symbolic of something greater. They are shadows or symbols of something else and it behooves us to ask what they are for our own understanding to better understand God and his word.

  First of all what does an olive tree have in common with a Menorah? It provides oil or fuel to power the lamp. Keep that in mind in the next couple of verses.

**6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. 7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.**

Here we have a very popular memory verse in verse six that is claimed by many with almost no allegiance whatsoever to the context of the verse. The context is the Temple and what it is and what it represents.

   Zerubbabel started building the Temple, but they left off building the Temple when they got discouraged because of the might and the power of the powers that were opposing them in their building efforts. They thought it couldn't be done because of all the opposition, and they were wrong because it is not by might, nor by power, but by the LORD's Spirit that the work would be finished.

   It is not by flesh and blood or our strength of body or even our minds that we are able to accomplish God's will but by the help of the Holy Spirit are we able to accomplish anything of any eternal value.

   The mountain (obstacle) that stood before Zerubbabel was going to be made a plain (leveled) and it would be done so by God himself when his people simply believe God would finish what he started and get busy with the work.

**8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. 10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.**

   The LORD put the plan in Zerubbabel's heart, and he was going to complete it with Zerubbabel. Zechariah was sent by the LORD so that when it came to past, they would know that the LORD truly sent Zerubbabel to build the Temple and not Zerubbabel himself.

   Those who despised the day of small things were those who saw the foundation of Zerubbabel's future Temple and they wept and cried remembering the glory of the Temple of Solomon.

   While the young were excited and praised the LORD for what he had done, the older ones who remembered the former glory wept and cried and this became a discouragement to the younger men who were doing the work and they eventually left off doing the work. They quit.

   Here we see those that run to and fro through the earth as opposed to those that were sent in chapter one to walk to and fro through the earth. At least here we know that they are the eyes of the LORD. Notice that there are seven of them (eyes) just as is mentioned in the book of the Revelations of Jesus Christ:

**Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.**

If the seven eyes represent the lamb of God which is Jesus Christ, then we know that God the Father had his Son Jesus Christ equally involved in every aspect of this Temple and guess what? The Holy Spirit of God was involved equally as well. How so? Watch and see:

**11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.**

 I have said it before and I will say it again, You cannot understand Revelation if you do not understand the book of Zechariah along with many other books. I should just say you cannot understand the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ fully unless you first understand all the books that proceed it, especially the seventeen books of the prophets Isaiah through Malachi.

   The two olive trees are none other than the two witnesses that will appear during the tribulation period as seen in Revelations 11:1-14:

**The Two Witnesses**

**Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. 3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.**

Notice that the two witnesses are called the two olive trees and not only that, but they are called the two candlesticks (Menorah's) as well in verse four. This means that the two witnesses are the lights (candles) for Israel that God has sent to them, and they are the golden pipes that bring the oil to the lamps as well.

   Since they stand near to God if anyone in Israel wants to stand near to God in that terrible time that is coming upon them (not the Church) then they better receive the light (truth) that these two witnesses will be spreading. What does the oil represent? The Holy Spirit!

**Chapter Five**

**A Flying Roll?**

**1 Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. 2 And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. 3 Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. 4 I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.**

The word roll simply means to roll a stone, but in Ezra chapter six it talks about a roll that is a decree from the LORD concerning the building of this very same Temple, so I have to wonder if they are the same thing or closely related.

   The roll is the same size as the Tabernacle that Moses built. This scroll has two sins listed on it, one on each side and there is a threat of being cut off (destroyed) if they violate what is one either side.

    One side deals with stealing and the other side deals with swearing (lying). Sins of Israel and her leaders for sure but now Israel has paid her debt for her sins and the LORD wants to purge Israel of the sin of the former priests which led Israel astray and usher in a new beginning with a new Temple and a new high priest.

  This roll in Ezra is not mentioned as flying but this one in Zechariah is and it has to do with thieves. We know of course that Babylon stole all the things they could get their hands on in the temple of Solomon and took them away to Babylon, including the Menorah, which was in the Temple.

  Some of the glasses were used in Daniel's day by the King to drink in and get drunk out of and it was while that desecration was going on that God wrote on the wall a message to the King of his soon demise.

   It is with that in mind that I point you to the future Babylon called Mystery Babylon, and the Antichrist that enters into a temple not built by the BRANCH or Messiah. He proclaims he is the Messiah. That Babylonian system is referred to as the Mother of Harlots. Read Ezra chapter 6 to better understand this subject.

**5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. 7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. 8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.**

The ephah represents a measurement of flour used in offerings that was offered by the priests for the sins of the people and the woman in the midst of the ephah represents the false doctrine of Babylon that had corrupted the true worship of Israel.

**9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. 10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.**

Shinar of course was in Babylon, and we see two women with the wind beneath their wings which denotes the ability to fly but remember these creatures are symbolic of something. Their wings were like the wings of storks and the Bible remains constant concerning the use birds in symbolism and they always represent wickedness.

   We notice that the woman mentioned early on was sitting on the ephah which was used to measure the fine flour for the sin offerings to the LORD, but it was being used in a very blasphemous way by this woman.

   Then we see two women with wings offer this polluted ephah up towards heaven as an offering that was diametrically the opposite of any offering that the LORD would accept. This is obviously an offering unto the Devil himself.

   The LORD was purging Israel from the influence of Babylon in the spirit world while Ezra, Nehemiah, Zechariah, Haggai, and Zerubbabel were cleansing it in the natural world.

**Chapter Six**

**The Four Chariots**

**1 And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass. 2 In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; 3 And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses.**

   First of all you may remember the four horsemen in Revelation chapter six when you look at this portion of scripture and that is good, but when you do please spend more than a quick thought on the two events that seem somewhat similar.

   Actually compare the two side by side and study them both together and you will see they are not the same events but the things that are similar may have some similar meanings such as the colors in each story.

   Again don't assume anything, but study to show thyself approved unto God. If you don't you will be like 2 Timothy says you will be, ashamed. The first thing that should pop out as different is Revelation six deals with four horseman riding atop of four different colored horses.

   While Zechariah deals with four chariots each having multiple horses pulling the chariot and the colors are not exactly the same and they are in a totally different order of appearance in each record. The colors in one could and probably are related to the colors in the other story so let's take a look at them both.

   Notice also that they came between two mountains (possibly Gerizim and Ebal) and Zechariah describes the mountains as being of brass. Brass is always associated with judgment which makes Gerizim and Ebal logical guesses for the two mountains.

**4 Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? 5 And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.**

 The four chariots are the four spirits of the heavens (plural). The word spirits comes from the Hebrew word Ruach, which means: Wind, breath, air, and spirit. These could be associated with the four angels that are in the four corners of the earth holding back the winds from blowing that is mentioned in Revelation 7:1 & 2.

   They are to hurt the earth just prior to the sealing of the 144,000 so they fit well here because these four spirits are associated with judgment as we saw earlier with the mountains of brass.

**6 The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country.**

Both the black and the white horses with their chariots go forth into the north country while the grisled and bay go forth toward the south country.

**7 And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth.**

  Again these spirits I believe are more than just four winds, but they are associated with the four angels that held back the winds from the four corners of the earth. I believe they will complete what they thought to do at the building of this temple prior to the building of the Millennial Temple.

**8 Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country.**

This I believe had a meaning for its day that these four spirits reported to the LORD that the Gentiles nation(s) had allowed the Jews held captive there, to return to their homeland, and so the LORD's spirit was quieted.

**9 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 10 Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; 11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; 12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**

   In June of 2015 I sat and listened to a young woman from the Temple Institute in Jerusalem's Old City tell me and everyone else that they know what the LORD said in Zechariah that the BRANCH (the Messiah) will build the Temple in the Kingdom, but they are not going to wait for the Messiah to build it, so they were finishing the plans to build it themselves.

   When will they ever learn? They will learn in that day for sure! They will be building the Temple for the Antichrist not the Christ. Notice the interesting name of the high priest at the time of the second temple, Joshua which is the Hebrew equivalent of Jesus. It was no coincidence.

   Joshua foreshadowed Israel's future high priest who would also be their king. Notice that Zechariah is told to make crowns and to put them on Joshua (just like you would a king) and then things were attributed next that could only be attributed the Messiah (the BRANCH).

   Joshua was a type of the Messiah in that he was Israel's high priest at the time of the building of the second temple. The real Messiah (the BRANCH) will build the Millennial Temple not the temple that Jews want to build now. That will be the temple of the Antichrist.

  Jesus was not a Levitical priest, but he is a better one after the order of Melchisedec, which is an eternal priesthood.

**14 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. 15 And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.**

The four crowns were to remain in the Temple to serve as a continual reminder to Israel that just as the Temple was rebuilt so will the BRANCH come and establish his kingdom on the earth.

**Chapter Seven**

**Should I Weep?**

**1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, that the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth day of the ninth month, even in Chisleu; 2 When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD, 3 And to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?**

Sherezer and Regemmelech came to the priests and the prophets to ask whether they should continue to come and pray in the fifth month as they had been doing since the destruction of the Temple.

  The only problem was that God never told them to do any such thing. They should have been lamenting over the sins of the nation that brought about the destruction of the Temple in the first place. These were man made fasts.

**4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying, 5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? 6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves? 7 Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when men inhabited the south and the plain?**

Did they do those things they did unto the LORD? No! He did not command them to do them. He did command them however to repent of their sins, but the devil is clever, and he got them to do something religious that would appease the people but unfortunately not God.

**8 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, 9 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: 10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. 11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. 12 Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. 13 Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: 14 But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.**

   The solution was not to mourn and fast for the destruction of the Temple but to lament over the sins that were committed by Israel that brought the wrath of God upon them in the first place.

  God never instituted those days. Those were religious observances made up by religious men to avoid the true issue which was Israel's sins that led up to the destruction of the Temple and the dispersion of the people. God wants Israel and us today to fix the root cause of our problem and not just the surface scars that come from the root.

**Chapter Eight**

**I am returned unto Zion**

**1 Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. 3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.**

   It may seem that God sometimes over reacts when dealing with Israel and her sin, but Israel is not like any other nation, and she cannot be treated as them because it is through her that the fate of all mankind rest.

   It is through Israel that God will bring the Messiah into the world to die for the sins of the world of all ages, but it is also through Israel that God's kingdom will be set up where the Messiah will rule as King of kings over all the earth one day.

   Satan will be bound in chains of darkness in the bottomless pit for that time when righteousness will rule. That is precisely why God was jealous over Israel with a great jealousy and with great fury. He cannot, and he will not allow Israel to fall to his adversary the Devil.

    She will fall, rise, fall, and rise again, but God's gifts and callings for Israel are without repentance. God will do what he said he would do through and with the nation of Israel, and if he has to chastise her more than those around her, then he will, and he has.

   Today Israel sits out of God's favour blinded in part for her rejecting her King and his kingdom but there is coming a day following the Time of Jacob's Trouble when she will regain her position as head of the nations during Christ's glorious kingdom.

**4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. 5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. 6 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.**

   Things didn't look so good to the Jews who remember the city when they left as captives before it was destroyed but God has promised them through Zechariah that the streets and houses will be rebuilt, and the children would play in the streets again and God would be even more happier than they would concerning their return.

**7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; 8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.**

They shall be my people implies that there was a time recently in their past that God saw them as not his people. That was when the people went a whoring after other gods and God had to write them a letter of divorcement for their spiritual adultery.

**9 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. 10 For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour. 11 But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts. 12 For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.**

While Israel was in captivity God didn't allow those that remained to have any peace. Neither did he bless the land for their sakes instead he cursed it in the former day and now he would lift that curse and the land would yield her increase unto them.

**13 And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong. 14 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: 15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.**

The key to Israel's blessing was to fear not. If Israel would keep God's word then no enemy could defeat them, no hardship could come upon them that God would not take care of.

**16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: 17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.**

Israel had to remain humble however and recognize that it was because of God they were blessed and never forget that, or the same thing would happen again to them to humble them.

**18 And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying, 19 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.**

  The fasts that religious men devised God turned around and made them into feasts because God showed them through these prophets that God was not in their fasts for a destroyed Temple and dispersed people, but he was in them repenting for doing the wicked things that brought about the destruction and dispersion in the first place (their sins).

**20 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: 21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.**

   God foretells what will happen in not only the near future, but as we look at the next verses, he begins to foretell what will happen in the later days when the Messiah reigns during the Kingdom that is still to follow.

**22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. 23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**

   This will happen in the Kingdom when the Kingdom of Heaven comes to the Earth and things are done here as they have always been done in heaven, in accordance with God's perfect will. What a day that will be!

**Chapter Nine**

**Thy King Cometh**

**1 The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach, and Damascus shall be the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, shall be toward the LORD. 2 And Hamath also shall border thereby; Tyrus, and Zidon, though it be very wise. 3 And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets. 4 Behold, the Lord will cast her out, and he will smite her power in the sea; and she shall be devoured with fire. 5 Ashkelon shall see it, and fear; Gaza also shall see it, and be very sorrowful, and Ekron; for her expectation shall be ashamed; and the king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited. 6 And a bastard shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. 7 And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth: but he that remaineth, even he, shall be for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a Jebusite.**

This is a description most people believe to be of Alexander the Great's campaign into the middle east. He first entered into Syria and Lebanon and when Ashdod and Ashkelon saw what happened there, they pretty much surrendered without a fight.

**8 And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes.**

   The LORD himself encamped about Jerusalem in the days that Alexander the Great and protected it as Alexander went along the coastline of Israel and never bothered to bring his armies eastwardly into Jerusalem.

   He was an earthly king that ruled most of the world but now Zechariah turns his attention to another king who does ride into Jerusalem not on a white horse as Alexander would but lowly on a donkey.

**9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.**

Notice it says that Israel's King is just and that he has salvation. Unless they believe that he is the Messiah they cannot enter into their kingdom. When he came into Jerusalem just prior to his crucifixion he came in just as it says here, lowly (humble) riding upon an ass not upon a stallion as a proud conqueror.

   When he returns it will not be upon another ass because he is coming back to make his enemies his footstool next time.

**10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.**

This is a sister prophecy related to them beating their weapons into plowshares in the kingdom.

   Notice that there is no mention of a 2,000 years gap in between these two events because it was a mystery kept hid in God from before the foundation of the world and it was not made known until it was revealed unto the Apostle Paul (the Apostle of the Gentiles).

**11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. 12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee; 13 When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man. 14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. 15 The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. 16 And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. 17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.**

**Chapter Ten**

**The Latter Rain**

**1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. 2 For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd. 3 Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.**

   The house of Judah is referred to as a flock and the sheep were easily led away by idols and diviners who have lied to them and troubled them because they had no shepherd. It says that the LORD hath made Judah in the latter days like his goodly horse in the battle. God will do great things in the last days of the Time of Jacob's Trouble with Judah.

**4 Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together. 5 And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.**

   It is nothing for the Creator of the universe to confound the riders on the horses that come against Jerusalem.

**6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.**

  Israel shall have her inheritance returned to her in the kingdom. Even Dan and Ephraim shall have their possession in the Kingdom.

   Neither of these two are listed in Revelation chapter seven because of their idolatry, but in the Kingdom, they will be restored, they will not be as numerous as the other twelve tribes, as they have 12,000 from each of their tribes protected with the seal of God through the Tribulation Period.

**7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. 8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased. 9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.**

   In the Kingdom, all the Jews will become priests and will be dispersed into all the world to minister unto the Gentiles the good news of the kingdom and its King.

**10 I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them. 11 And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away. 12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.**

   Israel's enemies will be made low, and she shall reign over all of them as well as the whole earth.

**Chapter Eleven**

**The Two Staves: Beauty and Bands**

**1 Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. 2 Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.**

  This is a prophecy of the future coming of the Roman Empire to rule not only Israel but the whole world. Rome invaded Israel from the North through Lebanon and Syria

**3 There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. 4 Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; 5 Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not.**

The Shepherds in Israel were their religious leaders who would steal from their own people to make themselves rich, just like Hophni and Phineas used their office for gain when the Messiah came it was no different. They had turned the LORD's house into a house of merchandise and Christ came and cleansed the Temple on two occasions.

**6 For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them. 7 And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock.**

   This could be related to the initial Roman invasion or its later crushing of Israel in 70 A.D. (which I believe) and the flock of the slaughter is most likely the remnant of kingdom saints that made up that Jerusalem Church which was scattered at the persecution which began with Stephen. The flock is the little flock mentioned by Jesus:

**Luke 12:32 "Fear not little flock; for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."**

**And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.**

There are two staves mentioned here and the first one is called Beauty with a capital B for emphasis. This is none other than a prophecy 500 years before it occurred of Israel's Messiah.

   He is referred to as a stave (staff) and he indeed fed the flock of Israel during his short three year ministry, but they for the most part did not receive the nourishment that he offered Israel. He did feed the little flock mentioned above and before he ascended into heaven what did he say three times to Peter? Feed my Sheep! Coincidence? I think not.

**8 Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.**

The three Shepherds are very possibly the prophets, priests and rulers of Israel that were cut off from Israel at the time of the Roman takeover. After the short lived revival in the days when the Temple was rebuilt there came the 400 years of silence between Malachi and Matthew and that was when God sent Roman Empire into the Land of Israel because of their sin.

**9 Then said I, I will not feed you: that that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off, let it be cut off; and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another. 10 And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. 11 And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the LORD.**

The LORD would no longer feed Israel as whole, and he began to speak unto them in parables after a certain point in his ministry to Israel. It was not long after that that as Zechariah records that he took Beauty (the Messiah) and cut it asunder. Beauty was the staff that represented the Messiah being cut off as Daniel says in Daniel 9:26.

    Once the Messiah (identified here as Beauty) was cut off (the death of the Testator Hebrews 9:16-17) then the Old Covenant was broken in that day (Notice it does not say "on" that day). The poor of the flock (the meek believers) that waited on the LORD (the remnant of believers that followed Christ and his disciples) knew that it was the word of the LORD.

**12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.**

And here is where it gets interesting and very specific: Judas Iscariot is spoken of here and so is Jesus Christ. Here we have the prophecy of the betrayal of Jesus Christ by Judas for 30 pieces of silver.

   The fact that this prophecy preceded Jesus Christ and his betrayal by 500 years is amazing, but some may still doubt but when you put that with the prophecy that follows about the priests taking the money that Judas returned and it being used to purchase a field from the potter the odds become infinite.

**14 Then I cut asunder mine other staff, even Bands, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. 15 And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. 16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.**

Now Zechariah records that the LORD cuts asunder the second of two staves (staffs) and this one is called Bands. Bands were used as ropes, or strings to measure one's property lines between families. It was used to represent boundaries of territories as well.

  Who is the foolish shepherd? He is also called the idol shepherd in the next verse. These verses speak of two people that are shepherds, but one is the great shepherd at his first coming that gives his life for the flock as well while the other shepherd is the anti-messiah who doesn't care one bit for the sheep of the LORD's sheepfold.

**17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.**

   Notice it says the "idol" shepherd and not the idle shepherd, which is because it is referring to the anti-Christ who is not the true shepherd who cares for the sheep. Jesus Christ is the good shepherd who would lay down his life for the sheep.

   The sword that is upon his arm is used to assassinate the anti-Christ during the time of his appearing spoken about in Revelation 13 which is the time of Jacob's Trouble. He is wounded in the head (the eye) and in the arm and his arm becomes paralyzed as well as his eye becomes blinded for the remainder of his time while he is waging war against Israel.

**Chapter Twelve**

**In that Day**

   The three words "in that day" are mentioned in the Bible 115 times, six in this chapter alone and twenty times altogether in Zechariah, which is second only to Isaiah which mentions it forty-three times.

   That is over half of all the times it is mentioned in the Bible. It is a reference to the Day of the Lord, which occurs just prior to the setting up of God's kingdom on this earth.

**1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.**

   Just in case anyone in Israel or her neighbors have forgotten who the LORD is, he reminds them that he is not the god of the hills (a fallen angel masquerading as a god) nor is he the god of the valleys, but he is the Creator of heaven and earth and not only that, but he is the one that gives man his very breath.

**2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. 3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.**

   Isaiah speaks of this in greater detail when he tells Israel that "**in that day**" it will no longer be her turn to drink of that cup of God's fury, but it will be her enemies turn to drink of that cup and woe unto them for his fury or wrath is great.

**Isaiah 51**

**12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; 13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor? 14 The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. 15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name. 16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people. 17 Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out. 18 There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she hath brought forth; neither is there any that taketh her by the hand of all the sons that she hath brought up. 19 These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee? desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom shall I comfort thee? 20 Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God. 21 Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine: 22 Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: 23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.**

**Chapter 52**

**1 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. 2 Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. 3 For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money. 4 For thus saith the Lord GOD, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. 5 Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day is blasphemed. 6 Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I. 7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! 8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. 11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD. 12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.**

   Do you remember what famous verses come after this chapter? Isaiah 52:13-53:12 They are some of the best verses in all the Bible for Israel to identify her Messiah by, especially if you connect them with Zechariah 12:10 and 13:6 where it mentions the wounds in his hands that he received in the house of his friends (Israel) and that they shall look upon him who they have pierced.

**4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.**

  Imagine the 200,000,000 horses that Revelation says come against Israel with riders upon them and the horses themselves are struck by their Creator with astonishment and the riders are smitten with madness. God can do that in the blink of an eye, who is man or Satan to think we can fight against him and hope to come out victorious?

**5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God. 6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.**

  The governors are Israel's leaders and deliverers, but it is God who is their true deliverer. In that day when God sets up his kingdom, he shall appoint governors that shall rule with him with an iron rod. There will be no rebelling, only peace for a millennium.

**7 The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. 8 In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.**

   The house of David shall be as God? Yes because the angel of the LORD, (the messenger of the LORD) is none other than Jesus Christ who is God in human flesh.

**9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. 11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.**

  All nations that come against Jerusalem are doing so because they are led by the god of this world Satan, but he will at the end of that final battle lose that title and all the rights and privileges it holds.

   And when he strips Satan and his minions of their power and positions, he will establish Israel as the head nation forevermore and Jerusalem will be its capital.

   The spirit of grace and supplications will God pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and that is because they will need it when they come to the realization that they (their ancestors) crucified their Messiah 2000 years ago.

   Hadadrimmon is actually two words or names describing a leader who died prior to Zechariah's day in the valley of Megiddo (also known as Armageddon).

**12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; 13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; 14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.**

   An interesting list of names of families are mentioned here and I am sure there are a lot of explanations as to why this is the list that God chose to have listed here but I believe they represent the royal line, the priestly line, and his former foes. None were left out because all will be happy in that day.

**Chapter Thirteen**

**A Fountain Opened**

**1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.**

The fountain is the water of life as mentioned twice by the prophet Jeremiah and lastly by John the Apostle:

**Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.**

**Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

**2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.**

 Satan is bound for a thousand years and all remembrance of him and his minions are expunged from the land. Baal, Dagon, Ashtoreth and Molech will not receive any glory from man and will be forgotten by mankind. Finally Jesus will do in his kingdom what Israel refused to do when it tried to establish the kingdom the first time.

**3 And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. 4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive: 5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.**

    Notice there will be people trying to deceive others, but they will killed by their own parents for the sin of blasphemy just as in the Old Testament, so it will be in the Millennial Kingdom.

   False prophets will not want to be called prophets because it carries with that title a death sentence. Remember Christ will be ruling and reigning with a rod of iron during that time and those who claim to be prophets will even lie to try to avoid the punishment that must be carried out by their parent immediately.

**6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.**

  Here we see a citizen of that new Kingdom ask the King of Kings how he got the wounds in his hands, and it appears that maybe it is not yet clear to all that he is Jesus who was crucified 2,000 years ago but it will be made clear on that day.

**7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. 8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.**

The Shepherd of course is Jesus, and the sheep were his disciples as recorded in Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27. Two-thirds of the nation of Israel will be cut off and die in the Time of Jacob's Trouble but God will preserve through the fire of refinement that is the Tribulation Period.

   God is weeding out the false believers and the remaining third will enter into the kingdom and they shall call on the name of the one whose hands and feet were pierced.

   He will say to them, "It is my people" and they shall say to Jesus, The LORD is my God. Finally Israel will be in the Promised Land with Immanuel (God with us) dwelling with them.

**Chapter Fourteen**

**The Day of the LORD cometh**

**1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.**

Jerusalem will be partially ransacked (spoiled) in the Tribulation Period and for the Remnant's sake the city will not be totally taken by her enemies. Half of the city will be taken into captivity; the houses will be rifled, and the women ravished which shows us the depravity of mankind.

**3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.**

 What is meant by the day of battle? The day of battle is not any one battle but every battle where Israel was fighting and was in the will of God. When the LORD fought for Israel the outcome was always the same and it will be on the day of the LORD.

**4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**

    This is the first time the mount of Olives is mentioned in scripture. It is mentioned 11 more times all in the gospels, but it is not the only time that this event is mentioned.

**5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.**

   The valley of the mountains is the valley that is created as a result Christ's feet standing upon the mount of Olives that splits it down the middle.

   When the LORD comes into the city at the onset of the kingdom, he will come with all the saints. These saints will be those resurrected into the kingdom as well as those that were preserved in the wilderness.

**6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.**

 The Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea are mentioned here, and these living waters will turn the land into an Oasis or paradise on the earth as it was in the Garden before man sinned.

**9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. 10 All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. 11 And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.**

What a day that will be when Jesus dwells in Zion and the city dwells in safety with no fear of destruction for the whole kingdom age.

**12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.**

   What does this sound like to you? A Nuclear blast melting the people skin off of their bodies while they were still standing. God could use something else, but I believe he will use mankind's own weapons against themselves. Could it be that Israel uses a weapon against the armies that are gathered there? It is very possible.

**13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.**

Neighbor shall raise up against neighbor and fight against them. Only God can turn his enemies against one another to accomplish his will.

**14 And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. 15 And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.**

  Judah will be enriched by its neighbors' resources. A transferring of the wealth of the heathen to God's people.

**16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.**

What would possess a nation at that time not to go up to Jerusalem to worship the LORD? It won't be the Devil because he has been bound in chains of darkness in the bottomless pit.

   There will still be lost people in the kingdom and anyone that will be born during the Millennial Kingdom will themselves have to trust Christ.

   What is the feast of Tabernacles? It used to commemorate the time that the children of Israel lived in tents or booths (tabernacles), but in the kingdom it will represent that God then tabernacles with his people (Immanuel).

**20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. 21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.**

  God ends his prophecy to Zechariah with the words, "and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts." Why does God end it that way?

   Joshua made a league with the Gibeonites, who were Canaanites, and then found out they were not who they said they were, so Israel couldn't utterly destroy them as God had commanded them when they entered the land, but God is the one here that is removing his enemies from the land and not just the land, but also the house of the Lord.

   Where was it that Joshua and the elders assigned the Gibeonites to work? As porters in the house of the LORD. They won't be in the Kingdom.

   God does not have to honor Israel's debt any longer and the confederacy that came against Israel that God told Israel to destroy will be complete in that day because it never was during anytime in Israel's past. God will see to it.

**The End**

**Zechariah Tests 3.5 Credit Hours**

**Chapter One**

1. In what period of time was Zechariah written? Pre-exile, exile, or the post-exile period.

2. About what year did Zechariah begin to prophecy?

3. Who else prophesied at the same time as Zechariah?

4. What reason does Zechariah give for God sending Israel into captivity?

5. What does the vision of the man riding a red horse symbolize?

6. What do the Myrtle trees represent?

7. Who is the angel of the LORD?

8. Where will Christ tabernacle (dwell or live) during the Kingdom?

9. Why was the LORD displeased with the Gentile nations?

10. Was there a temple in Jerusalem in Zechariah's day?

10. What do the four horns represent?

**Chapter Two**

1. What is the man with the measuring line measuring?

2. Where does God call his people to return from?

3. Who is the apple of God's eye?

4. What does it mean that Israel is currently Loammi?

5. How will God get his people back into the land?

**Chapter Three**

1. Who was the high priest in Zechariah's day?

2. Who stood next to him trying to stop the rebuilding of the temple?

3. What is the brand plucked out of the fire?

4. Why is Joshua ministering in dirty garments?

5. How does Israel get her garments cleaned?

6. What warning did the LORD give to Joshua?

7. Who is the LORD's servant which is called the Branch?

8. What is the new testament equivalent for the name Joshua?

9. What is the one day that Zechariah speaks of when the LORD will remove the iniquity of Israel?

**Chapter Four**

1. What is the Hebrew word for the candle that Zechariah saw in his vision?

2. What does an olive tree have to do with a candle/Menorah?

3. What does the context of verse 6 actually mean?

4. What happens to the mountain before Zechariah?

5. What do we learn about Zerubbabel in this chapter?

6. What is meant about despising small things?

7. What are the eyes of the LORD that run to and fro?

8. What are the two olive trees?

9. What is the oil a type of?

**Chapter Five**

1. What does the flying roll represent?

2. What does the ephah represent?

3. What does the women in the pehah represent?

4. What do the two women with wings like a stork represent?

5. Where is Shinar?

**Chapter Six**

1. What do the four chariots represent?

2. How do these differ from the four horsemen in Revelation?

3. What do the two mountains of brass represent?

4. What is another meaning of the word spirit?

5. What do the four angels do in Rev 7:1-2?

6. How did the LORD's spirit become quieted in the north country?

7. Whose name means the Branch?

8. What will the Branch do for Israel in the kingdom?

9. How was Joshua a type of the Messiah?

10. Why were the four crowns to remain in the temple?

**Chapter Seven**

1. Why did God not want Israel to fast as they had been for the past 70 years?

2. What did Israel do instead of repenting of their sins? 

3. What did God tell every man to do as to his neighbor?

**Chapter Eight**

1. Why was God so jealous over Israel?

2. When did God not consider Israel his people?

3. When did God prevent the land from producing?

4. What was the key to Israel's blessing?

5. What did God command concerning the four fasts that Israel had set up?

6. What does God tell Zechariah that 10 Gentiles will do?

**Chapter Nine**

1. Who was the one who passed by Jerusalem and returned without attacking it because God was protecting it?

2. Who is the King that rides in on a colt?

3. What does he bring with him?

**Chapter Ten**

1. When will the events of chapter 10 occur?

**Chapter Eleven**

1. Who are the shepherds in verse three?

2. Who does Jesus call his flock in the gospels?

3. Who was Beauty?

4. What happens to Beauty?

5. What happens to the covenant God made with Israel after that?

6. What was the price of Beauty?

7. What happened to the 30 pieces of silver?

8. Who is Bands (the foolish & idol shepherd)?

9. In what two places is the antichrist wounded in the time of Jacob's trouble?

**Chapter Twelve**

1. What does the term "In that day" refer to?

2. What happens to all the nations that burden themselves with Israel in the latter days?

3. What will God do to the horses and their riders who come against Israel in the latter days?

4. What will God pour out on the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem?

5. What will Israel look upon and realize?

**Chapter Thirteen**

1. What is the fountain for sin and forgiveness?

2. What will happen to the prophet and the unclean spirit in the land in the kingdom?

3. Who will kill the false prophets in the kingdom?

4**.** Whose hands are wounded in the house of his friends?

5. Who are the third who pass through the fire of the tribulation period and enter the kingdom?

**Chapter Fourteen**

1. What will happen to Jerusalem for a short while in the time of Jacob's trouble?

2. Who will go and fight for the remnant of Israel in that day?

3. What will happen to the Mount of Olives in that day?

4. When the LORD returns who will be with him?

5. What will go out from Jerusalem in that day?

6. What is the plague that will smite all that came against Jerusalem?

7. How will God punish any nation that does not come up to the feast of tabernacles in the kingdom?

8. What will be written on the bells of the horses and on the pots in Jerusalem in the kingdom?