

## VISION ONE: THE MAN AND THE HORSE Zechariah

Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are."  
Zechariah 1:9

### THE VISIONS: SOME BACKGROUND

1. There are eight visions all received in one night (connected)
2. They cover the time of the rebuilding of the Temple until the Kingdom is restored (see Acts 1:6, 15:16)
3. They all follow a pattern:
  - A. Some introductory words
  - B. A description of things seen
  - C. The questioning of the angel as to their meaning
  - D. The explanation by the angel

### THE FIRST VISION: THE RIDER AND THE MYRTLE TREES

On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month (February 15, 519 BC), which is the month Shebat (Babylonian name for that month), in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo (who) the prophet.

Zechariah 1:7

#### Name:

Son of Iddo means "(At) The Appointed Time"  
Son of Berechiah means "Yahweh Blesses"  
Zechariah means "Whom Yahweh Remembers"

#### Time:

About **5 months** after the building of the temple was resumed  
About **3 months** after Zechariah's first prophecy - Zech. 1:1-6  
About **2 months** after Haggai's last prophecy - Haggai 2:20

## The Man and the Horse and the Myrtle Trees

I saw by night (not asleep, fully awake), and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood (or, standing astride his horse) among the myrtle trees in the hollow (or, valley, ravine, bottomland, deep depression in the land); and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white.

Zechariah 1:8

#### Questions:

Who is the man?  
Why is his horse red? What does that mean?  
What do myrtle trees represent, if anything?  
What about the colors of the other horses?  
What does "sorrel" mean?

#### Answer:

Who is the man? The Angel of the Lord.

So they answered the Angel of the Lord, who stood (where) among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."

Zechariah 1:11

Now the Angel of the Lord found her (Hagar) by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

Genesis 16:7, 13

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear (who) God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from (who) Me."

Genesis 22:11-12

Note: Do not confuse this angel with the angel who spoke to Zechariah (see Zechariah 1:8; 2:3; 4:1,5; 5:5; 6:4)

#### Answer:

What do the myrtle trees represent? Israel.  
Myrtle is *hadassah*, the Jewish form of the word Esther.  
God will place this tree in the desert as part of His blessing on Israel (Isa. 41:19). Its branches were used to construct booths for the Feast of Tabernacles (Neh. 8:15).  
It is a popular name for Israel.

## The Reconnaissance Report

### First, the identity of the riders of the other horses

Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So (who) the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are." And the man who stood among the myrtle trees (the Angel of the Lord) answered and said, "These are the ones whom the Lord (the Father) has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth." Zechariah 1:9-10

### Next, the reconnaissance report

So they answered (who) the Angel of the Lord, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly." Zechariah 1:11

### Primary Point

**The world was lying in proud security. There was no sign of that shaking of nations which Haggai (2:7, 21, 22) had foretold should precede the coming of Messiah and the restoration of Israel. It was a low point (hollow) in their redemptive history yet the Lord was in the midst of them.**

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory," says the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:7

And again the word of the Lord came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying:

I will shake heaven and earth.

I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms;

I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms.

I will overthrow the chariots

And those who ride in them;

The horses and their riders shall come down,

Every one by the sword of his brother." Haggai 2:21-22

## The Word of the Lord

### First, the question:

Then (who) the Angel of the Lord (what) answered (or, to respond, to reply, to testify) and said, "O Lord of hosts (Father), how long will You (Father) not have mercy on (1) Jerusalem and on (2) the cities of Judah, against which You (Father) were angry these seventy years?" Zechariah 1:12

### Next, the answer:

And the Lord (Father) answered the angel who talked to me (not the Angel of the Lord), with good (or, well-pleasing, fruitful, proper, morally correct) and comforting (or, compassionate, without distress or sorrow) words. So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts:" Zechariah 1:13-14a

### Finally, three declarations and four words of comfort:

#### **Declaration One: God is Keeping Score and Watching**

"I am zealous (or, jealous, to become very red, having a strong emotion or desire for possession of the object) for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal (or, an intense passion or fervor that is greater than a person's wrath or anger)." Zechariah 1:14b

#### **Declaration Two: God is Exceedingly Angry with the Nations**

I am exceedingly angry (or, to be full of wrath or rage, to be furious) with (who) the nations (or, heathens or Gentiles, those God used to judge Israel) at ease (or, to be quiet, to be complacent). It refers to a condition of relative tranquility, undisturbed security and safety, without worries):

For I was a little angry (with His people, but in measure like a parent chastising a child), and they (the heathens) helped (forward the affliction of God's people)— but with evil intent (they went beyond being God's instrument)." Zechariah 1:15

#### **Declaration Three: God is going to Judge the Nations (implicit) and Restore Israel to Greater Glory in their Own Land**

Therefore thus says the Lord:

"I am returning to Jerusalem with (what) mercy;

My house shall be built in it," says the Lord of hosts,

"And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem (to mark out the new city for rebuilding). Zechariah 1:16

#### **Four Word of Comfort:**

"Again proclaim, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts:

"My cities shall again spread out (or, expand, disperse, scatter) through prosperity (or, welfare, happiness, blessing);

The Lord will again comfort (or, to have pity or sorrow for, to avenge) Zion,

And will again choose Jerusalem." Zechariah 1:17

1. **The Messiah will come to Jerusalem (1:16)**
2. **My house shall be built in Jerusalem (1:16)**
3. **Jerusalem's boundaries would expand (1:17)**
4. **God would, once again, choose Jerusalem (1:17)**