

# Zechariah 6-7

Bible Study

## Review

### Chapter 4

Fifth vision: Golden candelabra and the olive trees  
Meaning: Strength from God's spirit to God's servants

### Verse 6 (key verse)

“not by might, nor power, but by my spirit” ... “says the Lord of Hosts”

### God's spirit to give strength:

1. To finish the temple building project of Zechariah's day
2. To the spiritual temple (the Church)
3. To our individual spiritual temple

Two olive trees= two “anointed ones” ...to accomplish God's work

1. Joshua and Zerubbabel historically
2. Two witnesses (Rev. 11: 3-4) (future)

Use of symbols...throughout the Bible  
(example: tree of life....tree of the knowledge good and evil)

## Review

### Chapter 5

#### Sixth vision: Flying scroll

Meaning: Consequences of sin....judgment follows

#### Seventh vision: Bushel basket (Ephah)

Meaning: The wicked in the land...will be dealt with

The bushel basket was full (of wickedness)

➤ Would be carried to another land

#### Carried to Babylon

(End time prophecy—nations of Israel into captivity, by a final revival of Babylon)

(Jacob's trouble Jer. 30: 7 )

(Rev. 17:12-14)

Point of the vision: Wickedness has no place with God's people...

It will be taken to where it belongs—to Babylon

## Chapter 6

Eighth vision: **Four chariots** (v. 1-8)

➤ final night vision

Meaning: God will protect his people

This last vision completes the thought of the first vision  
(God takes care of his people)

The chariots are war chariots...

➤ Symbolically—the vehicles of God's judgment on the nations

Four chariots bring judgment on the nations...

➤ those who have done wrong with Israel

Follows the previous vision (chapter 5)  
End time captivity of Israel for wickedness

Take note...of the prophetic thread  
What it leads up to!

## Verse 1

Four chariots “ were coming from between **two** mountains”

“And the *mountains* were of **bronze**” (NKJV)

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin

(OKJ): “*mountains* of **brass**”

An alloy of copper and zinc

Figurative: of **appearance** rather than composition

Brass in scripture indicates the righteousness of God’s judgment

(Rev. 1: 15) “his feet were like fine brass”

(Psalm 36: 6) “your righteousness is like great mountains”

Two mountains:

1. Mount Moriah at Jerusalem (from which Zechariah prophesied during the temple rebuilding)
2. The mount of Olives

The chariots would run through the valley of Jehoshaphat

➤ The valley of judgment

➤ While the mountains blaze like illuminated bronze

## Verse 2

The colors of the horses have significance here just as they did in the first vision

➤ Seem to resemble the horses of Revelation 6

First chariot: red horses

Symbolize—war and bloodshed

Second chariot: black horses

Symbolize—famine...also calamity and distress

## Verse 3

Third chariot: white horses

Symbolize—conquest

Fourth chariot: dappled (spotted) horses

Symbolize—plagues and pestilence

Fourth chariot described as: “strong steeds”

Calls attention to the their work

(Feinberg) “When these agencies have finished their task, though it be for the judgment of the enemies of the Lord, the result of it will be good of God’s people and his own glory”

Verse 4

Zechariah asks the angel for the interpretation of the vision

Verse 5

“Four spirits” or can be translated-- **four winds**

Winds symbolize—destructive power sent out by God (Jer. 49: 36)

The four chariots represent waves of God’s judgment

“go out from their station before the Lord”—from the place of his throne

Verse 6

Black (famine) and white (conquest) horses go to the north country—**Babylon**

➤ (most of Israel’s formidable enemies attacked from the north)

In the third vision **Babylon** was named as the “land of the north”...also mentioned in the seventh vision (Chapter 5: 11)

As a prophetic vision: end time Babylon will receive a wave of destruction and famine at the time of the Day of the Lord  
(Joel 2: 2-11)

Dappled horses go to the south country—principally Egypt

- The south was the other main direction that Israel's enemies attacked

Compares to Daniel 11...king of the north and king of the south

- North of Jerusalem and south of Jerusalem

Pictures: The judgment going out from Zion (Jerusalem) to the north and south

Red horses are not assigned a place to go...but were the first to go in the vision (v.2 )

- Represent the judgment of war...which is included

Verse 7

“Strong steeds” ... “**eager** to go” ... “throughout the earth”—applies to all of the horses...and the eagerness to bring judgment to the nations

**Because it is leading to Christ's government being established**

“Go walk throughout the earth”---the authorization to complete their mission

- Authorized by God to do so



### Verse 8

The judgment on the Babylonians complete...now God's spirit is able to rest

### Verse 9-15

Symbolic crowning of Joshua the High Priest

➤ A type of the Messiah in name and office

### Verse 9

Joshua receives instructions from God...probably the day after the night visions

### Verse 10

Captives"... "who have come from Babylon"—a new group who return from Babylon

➤ Remember not all the Jews left with Cyrus' decree

"the gift"—gold and silver (v. 11) for the temple building project..from those still in exile

"to Josiah the son of Zephaniah"—a treasury steward

### Verse 11

"make an elaborate crown"—a royal crown

"on the head of Joshua"—Joshua was not being crowned king

➤ symbolic of the Messiah

## Verse 12

As in chapter 3 the Messiah is referred to as “the BRANCH”

“Behold the man”

The words Pilate used to the crowd who called for Christ’s death (John 19: 5)

“he shall branch out”... “He shall build the temple”—he would build the Church  
(John 15: 5) “I am the vine, you are the branches”—the Church would grow out from him

## Verse 13

“He shall build the temple” –repeated

1. In Zechariah’s day
2. The Church
3. The Millennial temple in Jerusalem

“He shall bear the glory”... “rule on his throne”—as King of Kings

“Shall be a priest on His throne”—double office of **king and Priest**

“Counsel of peace”—he shall establish a reign of peace

### Verse 14

“elaborate crown” (of gold and silver)

Was to be placed in the temple “for a memorial” to those who contributed the gift

Historically: Helem, Tobijah, Jediah, Hen—the delegation who brought the gifts for the temple

Also: “for a memorial” ...as a reminder of the coming hope

➤ Of Christ’s millennial reign as king

### Verse 15

“those from afar”—to build the temple

➤ In Zechariah’s day

➤ In the future

This is such a great future event:

“those from afar”—far from Jerusalem

Gentiles who will contribute materials to the Messianic temple (future)

### Isaiah 60: 5-7

“the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you” ... “they shall bring gold and incense” ... “they shall proclaim praises of the Lord” ... “I will glorify the house of my glory”

## Chapter 7

Begins a whole new section in the prophecy of Zechariah...this is two years after the night visions

### Verse 1

“**fourth** year of Darius....the word of the Lord came to Zechariah

Compare: Chapter 1: 7-8 (the night visions)—“the **second** year of Darius”

“the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislev”

Chislev—Babylonian name for ninth month= late November/early December

During these two years the temple reconstruction was moving...Jerusalem was being rebuilt

- The nation was being blessed
- A spiritual renewal in the people

### Verse 2

A delegation is sent to Jerusalem to pray and ask of the prophets and priests about a matter

(The names of these men are Babylonian...they had just returned from exile)

Verse 2 continued

“the house of God”= Bethel (margin)...Bethel means the *house of God*

(NIV) “The people of Bethel had sent...”

The town of Bethel was reoccupied during reconstruction

(Ezra 2:28; Nehemiah 7:32) mentions some who came from Babylonian exile to Bethel

Verse 3

Delegation asks the priests and prophets (Haggai and Zechariah)....

“should I **weep** and **fast** in the fifth month as I have done for many years?”

**Weep and fast** refers to a national fast called for during the years of captivity that were instituted to mourn over the calamities of the burning of Jerusalem and the temple

The fast of the 10<sup>th</sup> month recalled the burning of Jerusalem

(Feinberg) “This fast day is still the greatest fast day (apart from the Day of Atonement) for the Jews”

The temple building was **progressing well** and **things were better**, so they wanted to know if they should to continue the fasts that marked past calamities?

➤ They were tired of it

#### Verse 4

They received **God's response** to their question...in four sections through chapters 7-8

“the word of the Lord of hosts came to me”—(Ch. 7: 4; 7:8; 8: 1; 8: 18)

#### Verse 5

...the question had been asked in the first person: “should I”

The answer is: “to the people and priests” ...God is going to address an attitude

The fast of the fifth month:

➤for Jerusalem and temple burning

The fast of the 7<sup>th</sup> month: Gedaliah, governor of Judah assassinated and the Jews fled  
(II Kings 25: 8-10)

(Feinberg) “The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month is still observed in Orthodox Judaism as the fast of Gedaliah”

God asks: “during those 70 years” (of captivity)...“did you really fast **for me—for me?**”

These fasts had been instituted by the nation...not by God

But now they wanted God to answer whether they should keep doing them

God does not condemn the idea of a national fast...just their motives...

They were fasting for self....self pity

They wanted God to feel sorry for them so that he would do something for them...instead of really seeking his will

Verse 6

The same with their “eating and drinking”...was selfishly motivated

Verse 7

“Should you not have obeyed”—God’s point

The fasts were to mourn the calamities...instead for the **reason** for the calamities...their disobedience

The former prophets had warned the people in Judah to turn to God in obedience

Verse 8

Begins another section in God’s response

### Verse 9-10

God tells the people what to focus on:

The weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy and compassion...look out for the widow and orphan...the stranger and the poor...and love your brother  
(Micah 6: 8)

### Verse 11

Although warned by the prophets the people refused to listen

“shrugged their shoulders”= stubborn or rebellious shoulder...like an ox that refuses the yoke  
➤They refused the word of truth

“stopped their ears”...not to even consider God’s words

### Verse 12

Hardened their hearts like stone...refused the words sent by God’s spirit  
Spiritual hardening—the most dangerous kind

Results in “great wrath”—judgment from God



Verse 13

When they cried out in the day of judgment he did not listen to them

Verse 14

They were scattered among the nations

Because of the Babylonian captivity the land (Judah) became desolate

“no one passed through or returned”—no foreign power got possession of it...it was preserved for them to come back to after the exile

“They made the pleasant land desolate”—because of their sins they were responsible

Chapter 7's theme of fasting is familiar to the Jews as they have many days of fasting on their calendar

(Feinberg) “Yet the underlying lesson is that they commemorate disasters and calamities that have come upon them because of their national sin.

How much wiser would it have been to hearken and obey the message of God?”