

Minor Prophets
Zechariah
Lesson 2

Text: **Zechariah 1:1-17**

Intro: the visions we are going to start looking at tonight, were given all in the same night, and I think there is benefit to reading them together, and translating them together. But I want to look a litter closer at them, and then afterward, perhaps we will look again at all of them at one time.

I. 1st Vision, The Horseman, and the Myrtle Tree, Vs.7-17

A. God Is Watching, Vs.7-10

i. Night Vision,

a) About February 15th 519 B.C. Zechariah had a series of 8 visions,

b) this was not a sleep, but a vision,

- much like the trance that Peter fell into.
- In these visions, God reveals His ministry to Israel, and His judgment to the Gentile Nations.
 - We cannot say this is for Israel alone, after all, these riders were going to and fro through the entire earth.
- Much of these visions are going to concern specifically the Nations that had taken the Nation of Israel captive,
 - **QUESTION:** Is there a difference between allowing someone to do something and forcing them to do it? Did God allow the nations to take Israel captive, or did He force them?

ii. The Rider and Horses,

a) The Red Horse,

- this red horse was the leader,
 - This is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, (the angel of the Lord)
 - notice there are two here that the prophet speaks to, the other is an angel (Interpreting Angel) that speaks to him.
 - There are several places in the Old Testament that The second person of the Godhead is referred to as “The Angel of the Lord”
 - See: **Genesis 16:6-15; 22:10-20; 31:10-15; Judges 6:10-25...**
- The Interpreting Angel is going to interact with Zechariah 10 times through these visions,
 - the prophet is going to ask, What does this mean,
 - just because we are given the scripture does not mean that everything will be enlightened to us simply because we are saved.
 - Wisdom and understanding are gifts form God, a person can be saved for many years yet never understand the simplest of doctrines.
- **James 1:5** “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
 - it is mans responsibility to study and seek out to understand.
- **Psalms 25:14** “The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”
 - isn't all this about His covenant anyway? **Vs.3-6** return to Me, and I'll return to you, Don't be like your fathers...

- b) There are many commentaries that look into the horses mentioned here,
- some look at the red, and call it Jesus, and truly there is a relationship there,
 - they look at the speckled, brown, horses and represent them as the blotted sinfulness of man, and the white one as the final result of man's cleansing.
 - They also use the myrtle tree to represent man, the white flowers are to represent the redeemed man.
 - Others simply look at them as God's Angelic army,
 - traveling the earth doing what God has bidden them to do,
 - We know that Jesus is known as the Lord of host, and that he has command of the angels,
 - We also know angels do His bidden,
 - an example of that is in the book of Daniel when Daniel prayed, **Daniel 10**
 - **Psalm 34:7** “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”
- c) But these are identified in the text as “Messengers”
- they come baring news, that the Gentile Nations are at rest, Vs.11
 - Think about it, the Jewish people were in turmoil, and the gentiles were resting,
 - This is a good time for What??? Building,
 - there was a recent time where the Gentiles were at some ease, and the Nation of Israel did What? During the reign of Josiah,
 - he was the king that took the throne at the age of 8, and then had an awakening, prompted Israel to return to true worship of God, tried to begin a revival. But the nation was hard, they only obeyed as a matter of the law, and not as a matter of relationship.

B. The Appeal, Vs.12

i. The Angel of the Lord Spoke,

- a) this is an incredible record of Jesus crying out for the Nation,
- it isn't the only time,
 - **John 17** we have the record of Jesus praying for His disciples, including us.
- b) How Long?
- How long is the cry of someone going through suffering,
 - it was the cry of the Old Testament Saints :
 - **Psalm 74:9&10** “We see not our signs: *there is* no more any prophet: neither *is there* among us any that knoweth how long. 10O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever? ”
 - **Psalm 79:5** “How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?”
 - it was the major cry of Haggai, How Long Lord,
 - It is even the cry of the New Testament saints,
 - **Revelation 6:9&10** “I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”

- We always want to know how long, I think we simply want to know there will be an end to it,
- **Romans 8:18** “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

c) Jeremiah had promised a reprieve,

- **Jeremiah 25:8-14** “Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words,⁹Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.¹⁰Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.¹¹**And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**¹²And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.¹³And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, *even* all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.¹⁴For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.”
- **Jeremiah 29:10&11** “For thus saith the LORD, That **after seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”
 - But the Nation was still suffering somewhat, Why? What was the reason they went captive in the first place? They turned away from God, now this is the call, the first few verses, return to me...

C. The Answer, **Vs.13-17**

i. Good & Comforting Words,

- a) the word of God is comforting to those who Love the Lord, and delight in the Law of the Lord.
 - It is only the ones who are disobedient that the words don't bring comfort.
 - Anytime we feel the rebuke of the word, it is for our benefit.

ii. A Jealous Lord,

- a) **Exodus 20:5** “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God ...”
- b) **Deuteronomy 4:24** “For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.”
 - this picture is painted that the Lord is Jealous of His people as a husband is jealous of a wife.
 - This is why God was so displeased with the way Israel acted toward Him,
 - it also explains the language He used as a harlot.

iii. Unnecessary Roughness,

- a) the Lord is angry with the Gentiles for “...they helped forward the affliction” **Vs.15**

- Back to the question I started with, Did God allow them or force them?
 - God allowed them, and He used them as a tool, much the way God has used Satan as a tool to accomplish His will,
 - Look at Joseph, What was intended for evil God used for good, **Gen. 50:20**
 - God used the Gentiles to bring back the Nation of Israel,
 - In the New Testament,
 - **I Corinthians 2:7&8** “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
 - think about it, you are satan, and you know the word, the prophecies, yet the very purpose of God, you enabled Him,...
 - God allowed the Nations to discipline, but they took it too far.
 - For people in authority we need to be cautious not to be too severe in our judgments.
 - Parents, bosses, leaders...

iv. Greater Comfort, Vs.16&17

- a) the focus of this vision should not be on the judgment but, the restoration.
 - b) I Am returned to Jerusalem with “Mercies”
 - what is mercy? When God withholds what is deserved.
 - Israel still deserved judgment, just as we all do. But God once again promises his mercy here.
 - c) The Temple will be rebuilt,
 - what was the temple tho?, it was a representation of the Messiah,
 - there was still a point to the temple, but there would be a time coming where there was no need for it, after Jesus fulfills the law, then there is no longer need for the temple, this is the argument of the book of Hebrews.
 - But as for now, there would be a reestablished worship center.
 - What would happen if there was no temple in the time of Christ?
 - No passover observation... among other prophecies being fulfilled.
 - d) A Line will be stretched out across Jerusalem,
 - in the bible there is discrepancies between the measurements:
 - a cubit was the distance between the elbow and the middle finger, a span was the width of a hand, one furlong is 440 cubits,
 - measurements can vary, but if you have a line it is standard. A tape measure.
 - I think is is God's way of saying, He will establish the boundaries.
 - This is in contrast to the others who lay claim to it.
 - e) It will also be prosperous,
 - and it will grow,
 - what happened to Lexington as a city? Through prosperity it grows, as will any city that is prosperous.
 - God promises His blessings.
- D. We are going to stop with one this week, I hope to go faster on the rest of the eight, but we see a lot of the same symbols, and I think it will be beneficial for us..