### **ZECHARIAS' 8 NIGHT VISIONS (Chs. 1-6)**

1:8 I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and <u>he</u> stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom;

18: He answered, "These are the horns that scattered **Judah so that no one could raise their head**,

The History of This Remnant <sup>2:64</sup> The whole company numbered 42,360,

Ezra1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

<sup>2</sup> "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at <a href="Ierusalem in Judah">Ierusalem in Judah</a>. <sup>3</sup> Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. <sup>4</sup> And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem."

<sup>5</sup> Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.

Psalm 126:1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of [a] Zion, we were like those who dreamed. [b] Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, LORD,

like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

EVAR

3 When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. <sup>3</sup> Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices.

<sup>10</sup> When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel. <sup>11</sup> With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD:

"He is good; **His** love toward Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. <sup>12</sup> But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid. At the same time, many others shouted for joy. <sup>13</sup> No one

could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

**Ezra 4** When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>2</sup> they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, "Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."

<sup>3</sup> But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, "You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us."

<sup>23</sup> As soon as the copy of the letter of King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum and Shimshai the secretary and their associates, they went immediately to the Jews in Jerusalem and compelled them by force to stop.<sup>24</sup> Thus **the work on the house of God** in Jerusalem **came to a standstill** until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

#### **16 YEARS LATER**

Ezra **5** Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. <sup>2</sup> Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to

rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

<sup>3</sup> At that time Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates went to them and asked, "Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?" <sup>4</sup> They<sup>[a]</sup> also asked, "What are the names of those who are constructing this building?" <sup>5</sup> But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped until a report could go to Darius and his written reply be received.

<u>Haggai</u> 1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, [a] the high priest:

<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD's house.""

<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

<sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

<sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a

ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. <sup>11</sup> I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

<sup>12</sup> Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: "I am with you," declares the LORD. <sup>14</sup> So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the LORD Almighty, their God, <sup>15</sup> on the **twenty-fourth day of the sixth month**.

Zech. 1 In **the eighth month of the second year of Darius**, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo:

<sup>2</sup> "The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. <sup>3</sup> Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. <sup>4</sup> Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? <sup>6</sup> But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors?

"Then they repented and said, 'The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do."

<sup>7</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo.

<sup>8</sup> During the night I had a vision, and there before me was a man mounted on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses.

<sup>9</sup> I asked, "What are these, my lord?"

The angel who was talking with me answered, "I will show you what they are."

<sup>10</sup> Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth."

<sup>11</sup> And they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, <u>"We have gone throughout the earth and found</u> the whole world at rest and in peace."

This is not encouraging news for the remnant. This is devastating.

The Gentile world has destroyed Jerusalem and the cities of Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which You have been indignant these seventy years?" <sup>13</sup> The LORD answered the angel who was speaking with me with <sup>[d]</sup>gracious words, comforting words.

## the **angel of the LORD** said, "O LORD of hosts, how long

## This is God praying to God

Our Heavenly High Priest	The King of Kings

HEB. 7:25 Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them.

ROM. 8: <sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,

The Angel Of The Lord was interceding for his people when they heard-"We have [b] patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is [c] peaceful and quiet."

## A troubling report?

Why did God allow such brutality to Jerusalem and His People?

They have destroyed everything; our necks are still under the boot of gentile power, and they are prospering in peace and quiet.

Where Is God's Righteous Judgement?

Where is Your Judgment against their evil?

Why did You allow them to do this to us?

## A Psalm of Asaph.

73 Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps [a]had almost slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the [b] arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> For there are no pains in their death, And their [c]body is fat. <sup>5</sup> They are not [d]in trouble as other [e]men, Nor are they plagued [f]like mankind. <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. <sup>7</sup> Their eye <sup>[g]</sup>bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart [h]run riot. <sup>8</sup> They mock and [i]wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. <sup>9</sup> They have set their mouth <sup>[]</sup>against the heavens, And their tongue [k] parades through the earth.

10 Therefore This people return to this place,
And waters of abundance are mdrunk by them.

11 They say, "How does God know?
And is there knowledge mwith the Most High?"

12 Behold, these are the wicked;
And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.

13 Surely in vain I have wheart pure
And washed my hands in innocence;

14 For I have been stricken all day long
And who have levery morning.

<sup>15</sup> If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. <sup>16</sup> When I pondered to understand this, It was <sup>[q]</sup>troublesome in my sight

## <sup>17</sup> Until I came into the [1] sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

18 Surely You set them in slippery places;
You cast them down to slipestruction.

19 How they are slipestroyed in a moment!
They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!

20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their slipestructure.

<sup>21</sup> When my heart was embittered And I was pierced <sup>[v]</sup>within, <sup>22</sup> Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like <sup>[w]</sup>a beast <sup>[x]</sup>before You.

You have taken hold of my right hand.

You have taken hold of my right hand.

With Your counsel You will guide me,

And afterward receive me [x] to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but You?
And [2]besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the [aa]strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;
You have [ab]destroyed all those who [ac]are unfaithful to You.

28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;
I have made the Lord [ad]GOD my refuge,
That I may tell of all Your works.

18 Remember this, [aa]O LORD, that the enemy has reviled,
And a foolish people has spurned Your name.

19 Do not deliver the soul of Your turtledove to the wild beast;
Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.

20 Consider the covenant;
For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

21 Let not the oppressed return dishonored;
Let the afflicted and needy praise Your name.

<sup>22</sup> Arise, O God, and plead Your own cause; Remember <sup>[ab]</sup>how the foolish man reproaches You all day long. <sup>23</sup> Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries, The uproar of those who rise against You which ascends continually.

Zech. 1: b the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.

## Who abandoned Whom?

12: the LORD said, "LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, **which you have been angry** with these seventy years?" <sup>13</sup> So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

## The Gracious Words: Comforting Words Are 8 Night Visions

<sup>8</sup> During the night, I had a vision,

CH.1-6 Are The 8-Night Visions

Vision One: Horses among Myrtle Trees (Zechariah 1:7-17)

Vision Two: Four Horns and Four Carpenters (Zechariah 1:18-21)

Vision Three: A Man Measuring Jerusalem (Zechariah 2:1-13)

Vision Four: Joshua the High Priest (Zechariah 3:1-10)

Vision Five: A Candlestick and Two Olive Trees (Zechariah 4:1-14)

Vision Six: A Flying Scroll (Zechariah 5:1-11)

Vision Seven: A Woman in an Ephah (Zechariah 5:5-11)

Vision Eight: Horses, Chariots, Mountains of Brass; Crowns of Silver and Gold (Zechariah 6:1-15)

First Vision 1:16: "Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt.

Last Vision 6:12 Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he $^{[g]}$  will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

Why not simply begin and end with <sup>13</sup> It is he who will build the temple of the LORD. - NOW RETURN TO ME?

Ex. 6: "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Moses reported this to the Israelites, but <u>they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.</u>

(Despite seven unconditional "I Wills" from God Himself)

It took 8 revelations to lift God's people from their discouragement so they could receive His Gracious Invitation: *Return to Me.* 

The Only Way To "Return To Him" Is When "the LORD says: 'I will return" and then He Builds His Temple

### **Vision One**

During the night I had a vision, and there before me was a man mounted on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses.

<sup>9</sup> I asked, "What are these, my lord?"

The angel who was talking with me answered, "I will show you what they are."

- <sup>10</sup> Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth."
- <sup>11</sup> And they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, "We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace."
- <sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the LORD said, "LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?" <sup>13</sup> So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.
- <sup>14</sup> Then the angel who was speaking to me said, "Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, <sup>15</sup> and I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they went too far with the punishment.'
- <sup>16</sup> "Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,' declares the LORD Almighty.
- <sup>17</sup> "Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.'"

Yahweh's Foundational Answer for Discouraged Believers.- He was standing among the myrtle trees in the bottom.

Neh. 8:15b "Go out into **the hill country** and bring back branches from ...... **from myrtle trees**, to make temporary shelters"

# I Am with you!

**Duet 31:8** "Do not be afraid; **do not be discouraged**. The LORD himself goes before you and **will be with you**; he will never leave you nor abandon you".

"LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?" "O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem

I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, My house will be built in it," declares the LORD of hosts, "and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem."

Vision **Two**: Four Horns and Four Carpenters (Zechariah 1:18-21)

<sup>8</sup> Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. <sup>19</sup> And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?"

So he answered me, "These are the Thorns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. <sup>21</sup> And I said, "What are these coming to do?"

So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but <sup>[g]</sup>the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it."