

RUSSELL SANDERS

2-23-2021

ZECHARIAH THE PROPHET – LESSON 3

VISION ONE: RIDER AND HORSES

Zechariah (Yahweh Remembers) was a popular name applied to nineteen different bible characters, but none was as significant in his work as the prophet who wrote this book. It is the longest book of the thirteen minor prophets, so called “minor” only because they are much shorter than the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel which are called the “major prophets.”

Zechariah 1:7-17 records the first “night vision” given to him by God. He saw a “man” riding a red horse followed by a number of other red, white, and speckled horses. The “man” was then standing among myrtle trees as the prophet asked the angel of the LORD the meaning of the rider and horses.

An angel said, ***“they were those whom the LORD had sent to walk to and fro through the earth.”*** Their report was that the earth was “still” and at “rest”, indicating peace.

Indeed, the “known world” of that time was at peace. Babylon had fallen to the Persian empire and there was no more war. Slaves that had been held by Babylon were now released by Persia to return to their homeland.

The angel spoke of the seventy years of Babylonian exile but questioned (verse 12, paraphrased), ***“how long (LORD) will you withhold mercy on Jerusalem and Judah?”*** This question was asked because the Temple where God’s presence should dwell, was not yet rebuilt. Preliminary work started fourteen years earlier but had been halted with no further progress.

God’s answer was that His “house” (Temple) would indeed be built. Verse 16 says, ***“a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem,”*** indicating the building activity would resume. The “line” is used by builders to assure all features are accurate in “Plumb” and “measure.”

Indeed, as a result of the prophetic encouragement of Zechariah and Haggai, the construction resumed and was completed.

Then in verse 17 we see a remarkable prophecy for future times. God said, ***“My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad. And the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.”***

Zion is generally speaking of the future earthly kingdom of Messiah, with cities throughout the earth and Jerusalem as the Messiah’s capitol of the world. This verse looks forward to Christ’s future kingdom which we await. We shall have a part in it.

Be faithful to the LORD, and you shall have your part as “king and priest” in Zion.