

Post-Exile Prophets: Zechariah
VISION #8: THE CHARIOTS ARE COMING

Wednesday, July 2

Reading: Zechariah 6:1-8

Zechariah 6:1 *I looked up again, and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains—mountains of bronze...*⁴ *I asked the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these, my lord?"* ⁵ *The angel answered me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world."*

This final vision wraps up Zechariah's night visions. In the first vision (1:7-17), the prophet saw horses of various colors whose riders reported to the Angel of the Lord about their reconnaissance of the earth. They reported that the earth was "at rest and in peace." Now in this last vision, Zechariah sees horses pulling chariots being sent from the Lord to accomplish His purpose in the world. These four spirits or angels are "going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world." Some suggest the "two mountains" represent the Mount of Olives and Mount Zion on which the temple was built. Others see the mountains as the gate of heaven. They might also picture the two bronze pillars that guarded the entrance to the Holy Place in Solomon's temple. All of these suggestions have one thing in common – they all picture the entrance to the presence of God from which these angels have come.

The chariots going north and south are especially emphasized.¹ The south represents Egypt, a continual enemy of God's people. The north is the direction from which Israel was usually invaded. These horse-drawn chariots are going to deal with the enemies of God's people, just as God had promised in the previous visions (1:18-21; 2:1-13).

In his first night vision, Zechariah heard that the earth was "at rest" in smug, self-confidence (1:11). Now God's Spirit is at rest because His judgment on the nations has been carried out. One day, God will set all things right! Then the rest God had promised His people will reach its complete fulfillment (see 3:8-10).

The mention of God's Spirit ties this final night vision with the visions at the heart of Zechariah's dream-filled night. It was God's Spirit that would provide the power for Zerubbabel to complete the work on the temple (4:6-9). And it was the Spirit who flowed through the governor and the high priest (two olive trees) to lead His people (4:2-6; 11-14). Today it is the same. And just like Zechariah discovered in this vision, we can be assured that He will accomplish His work in and through us.

My prayer for you is the same as that of the Apostle Paul:

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart...

How should the truth that the Spirit is working affect your daily life?
Read Philippians 1 as you ponder this truth.

¹ "The white horse toward the west" should probably be translated as "the horses after them" – i.e. after the black horses – thus the white horses are also going north