

## Horns, Hammers & A Measuring Line

July 3, 2016

Oakbrook Community Church

Zechariah 1:18-2:13

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### I. God Overcomes Every Horn in Our Lives 1:18-21

Horns = enemies

Craftsmen = skilled craftsmen workmen typically used hammers

#### Lessons:

- God's people should expect hardships and opposition simply because they are His people in this evil world. Eph 6:10-20; 1 Pet 2:11-12
- We are to maintain a warfare like mentality in life 1 Pet 1:13; 2:11; 4:1-2
- Know that God is a Strong Defender of His People why opposition for God's people?
  - a. God often uses opposition to chasten His people for their worldliness & unfaithfulness
  - b. God may allow opposition to teach us that we can't prevail in our own strength, so we are forced to rely on God alone.

### II. God Blesses His Chosen People in His time as their Defender & Benefactor by sending Christ 2:1-13

#### • The Measuring Line Vision 1-5

Church is always being measured

World's measurement is different than God's

Jerusalem will grow beyond measure without walls

But God will be her protector - wall of fire Ex 40:48; 14:24

#### • The Vision Applied 6-13

- a. A Message to Backsliders 6-9
  - Flee Babylon — examine your worldly ties — you will be destroyed if not!
- b. A Message for the Faithful who need Encouragement 10-12
  - Sing & rejoice - God is coming to dwell in your midst. Jn 1:14
  - Christ's work is for All Nations — Rev 5:9-10
- c. A Message for All Flesh 13
  - Be silent (in Awe) before God — Look at His Gospel Message!
  - BE AMAZED!

### To Think About & Discuss:

- What are some of the schemes or devices that Satan has sent out of hell down the years to try to destroy the church? What devices is he using against the church today? Will they succeed?
- How do you think the church should respond to persecution? How should Christians help and encourage other Christians who are being persecuted around the world?
- Why might God delay His judgment upon the wicked for so long? How must the people of Zechariah's day feel? How do we feel? How does 2 Pet 3:9 help?
- What is worldliness(flee Babylon)? How should we evaluate ourselves and how can we extricate ourselves from it?
- How do you explain the persecution of God's people throughout history in light of these prophecies of God guarding His people as the apple of his eye?
- Trials and testing rarely feel like God's blessing. How are you to know whether God is blessing you or testing you?
- Read Revelation 18. What is the end of Babylon? Read Rev. 9:1-10. What is heaven's response?
- If you had a 'backslidden friend', what could you do or say to encourage him or her to "get up"? Discuss tangible ways you might expose your friend to the Word so that they would hear God's truth.
- What would you do to lift up one who is discouraged in the work of the Lord? What might you say or do to help this person understand the words of this prophecy?