

**God Remembered**  
**Zechariah 6:1-8**  
**Chapter 9**  
**“The Protection and Preservation of Israel”**

**Eighth Vision: Four Chariots**

**Then I looked up again and saw four chariots coming from between two mountains. The mountains were made of bronze. The first chariot had chestnut horses, the second chariot black horses, the third chariot white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses — all strong horses. So I inquired of the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?”**

**The angel told me, “These are the four spirits of heaven going out after presenting themselves to the Lord of the whole earth. The one with the black horses is going to the land of the north, the white horses are going after them, but the dappled horses are going to the land of the south.” As the strong horses went out, they wanted to go patrol the earth, and the Lord said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. Then he summoned me saying, “See, those going to the land of the north have pacified my Spirit in the northern land.”**

Finally, we come to the final vision in Zechariah’s book of prophecy. Like all the others before it, this vision, too, is highly symbolic in nature. Many Bible scholars have disagreed as to its interpretation. However, when taken in context with the other seven visions, it isn’t really all that difficult to unravel its true meaning.

As the prophet is being visited by one successive vision after another coming in rapid fire, each one is actually building upon the next. And the reoccurring theme is obvious; God has not forsaken His plans for His chosen people. And although they have often strayed from the course to which He placed them, He will not forget His covenants made to the patriarchs of Israel. God remembers His promises and will see to it that Israel shall remain standing until the end of days.

This final vision is of four chariots, one pulled by red horses, one by black, one by white and finally a fourth that is “dappled” or “grizzled” in color. Depending upon how the Hebrew is translated, all four sets of horses are either described as “strong”, or only the last group. Many have argued as to which may be the case, but for the purposes of this study, we will assume that all four groups are described as strong.

Some have speculated that the four colors of the horses are in line with the symbolism of the four horsemen of the apocalypse (**Revelation 6**). If this is indeed the case, then the red horses symbolize bloodshed, the white victorious conquest, the black famine, and finally the grizzled plague and pestilence. Whether this is the case I cannot answer, but it is quite possible that these are indeed the types of judgments represented by the teams of horses pulling God’s war chariots.

It is also important for us to note that there is no mention of any individuals driving these teams of horses. This is, I feel, significant, for the chariots and horses are mere symbols of a spiritual reality, rather than a literal group of chariots being piloted by specific charioteers. The interpreting angel describes these chariot teams as “*spirits of heaven*” that stand in the presence of The LORD (**vs. 5**). The distinction needs to be made here that the word for “*spirit*” and the word for “*wind*” in the Hebrew are exactly the same (*Ruach*). And as the KJV renders this verse “*four winds*”, I actually believe that this is the more appropriate translation.

When the word *ruach* is in fact translated here as winds, then this passage becomes eerily similar to **Revelation Chapter 7**, as we see the four angelic beings restraining the “*four winds*” of the earth until God’s elect are sealed. Simply put, the judgment of God was being restrained, until His elect were sealed for their protection and survival.

**After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea, “Don’t harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we seal the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed: 144,000 sealed from every tribe of the Israelites:...** **Revelation 7:1-4**

In Biblical language, the chariot represents warfare, so in essence Zechariah's vision is that of God declaring war on various nations of the earth. More specifically the war chariots are dispatched, (all but the red team) to either the "north" and the "south". So it becomes essential for us to understand exactly what these two areas represented in Zechariah's day, in order to accurately interpret the vision.

Although the city of Babylon actually lay to the east of Jerusalem, it is always referred to in Scripture as "*the land of the north*". This is more than likely because when the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem, the route their armies took would bring them down upon the region from the north. So the first two sets of chariots in the vision (the black horses, then followed by white) that were dispatched to the north were being sent to Babylon.

The "south" in this passage represents the land of Egypt. The two most prominent antagonist of God's chosen people in this vision, therefore, are namely Babylon and Egypt. Caught between these two world powers lay the tiny nation of Israel, who by any and all means was vulnerable to the conquests of either. But God remembers His covenants, and therefore, He would see to it that this small remnant of His chosen ones would endure, even in the face of such powerful antagonists such as these. The LORD would dispatch His mighty winds of righteous judgment, both to the north and south to insure Israel's protection and perseverance. So, we now understand that the *grizzled* or *dappled* horses and their corresponding chariot in Zechariah's vision were sent down into the land of Egypt.

The chariots in Zechariah's vision were sent out from between "two mountains of bronze" (**vs. 1**). Bronze represents judgement in The Scriptures. And the two mountains most likely are symbolic of Jerusalem's two major mountain peaks, namely Zion and The Mount of Olives. So the implication is clear, God is sending out His "winds of protection" from Jerusalem to bring justice to the lands that have tormented His chosen people.

It was Israel's sin that was the catalyst for their being led away in captivity in Babylon. However, The LORD declared that the arrogance of Babylon coupled with the harsh treatment of His people would not go unpunished (**Isaiah 1, Jeremiah 50**). Therefore, the first chariot was dispatched with its black horses, and the city of Babylon fell to the Medes and The Persians. This is why God says that "**those going to the north have pacified My Spirit in the northern land.**" Babylon under the wicked ruler Belshazzar had paid dearly for her sins and blasphemy against The LORD.

But notice, there is a second set of horses that was to one day return to Babylon. I believe that this is a reference to the end times, when Christ will overthrow the kingdom of the anti-christ once and for all. The modern day, "Babylon" that will be the capital city of this ruthless demonic ruler will be thrown down by Christ Himself, when He returns in power and glory (**Revelation 18-19**). This, I believe, is what Zechariah's vision represents, when the second set of "white horses" are going to invade Babylon *after* the black horses have already gone before them (**vs. 6**).

The red horses with accompanying chariot was left to patrol the whole earth. Which is possibly in reference to a time of final day of judgement that will take place when Christ returns and the earth is fully purged of her sin. The color red would be appropriate for this final judgment for the *Bible* teaches that when God unleashes His ultimate assault upon the wicked of this world the blood of the slain will rise as high as a horses bridle and will cover an area of nearly two hundred miles (**Revelation 14:20**).

So, we can see by this the final vision given to Zechariah that God is firmly in control and will protect His chosen ones. And we can read from history that the nation of Israel has and always shall endure. But one mystery remains. Why did God not abandon the nation of Israel, when she repeatedly sinned and rebelled against Him? The answer is twofold: First God remembers His covenant promises, and second, God had a plan to redeem the lost sinners of the world through the nation of Israel. The promised Messiah would, as promised, be a descendant of Abraham.

**And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed My command.** **Genesis 22:18**

There would be a prince born in the land of Israel, and He would be like no other who had ever lived or shall ever live again. This Prophet, Priest, and King would be a descendant of Abraham and would save His people from their sins. His Name is above every name (**Philippians 2:10**), and He will one day rule the nations with an iron scepter (**Revelation 2:27**). He is Christ Jesus. And we can see His coming foreshadowed in all of Scripture, including the Book of *Zechariah*. A most vivid portrayal of His crowning glory will be revealed in the final portion of this very chapter! So that there can be no doubt that when it comes to His promises, God remembers!

Truth!