

The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions (Zechariah 6a)





Redemptive History





Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period¹

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	Declaration of Cyrus (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
Darius I	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	



Zechariah 6 (ESV)

6:1 Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. 2 The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, 3 the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. 4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” 5 And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. 6 The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” 7 When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. 8 Then he cried to me, “Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country.”

9 And the word of the LORD came to me: 10 “Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. 11 Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’ 14 And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 “And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”



first vs last

First Vision	Last Vision
four horseman (scouts)	four chariots (warriors)
myrtle trees (undercover)	bronze mountains (position of strength)
patrol (observing to report to the Lord)	going out (from the Lord of all the earth)

Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. **2** The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, **3** the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. **4** Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” **5** And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. (Zechariah 6:1 ESV)



Lord of all the earth

- four winds - point of the compass; everywhere
- presenting themselves - order from the Lord
- Lord of all the earth - beyond Jerusalem and Judah

Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. **2** The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, **3** the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. **4** Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” **5** And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. (Zechariah 6:1 ESV)



north and south

- patrol - to walk
- first vision - to observe
- second vision - to secure Jerusalem's peace
- go everywhere, but focus on ...
 - north country - Babylon, where wickedness was sent, land of exile
 - south country - Egypt, where they were enslaved
 - protected from all threats
- impatient - fulfill the promise of the first vision
 - And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. (Zechariah 1:13 ESV)

6 The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” **7** When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. (Zechariah 6:6-7 ESV)



at rest

Then he cried to me, “Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country.”
(Zechariah 6:7 ESV)

- he cried - power proclamation
- the angel as the Yahweh
- at rest - the war of the nations against Jerusalem and Judah has ceased
 - exile complete
 - embodied in the completion of the Temple
 - work of redemption
- already
 - temple completion
 - exile ended
- the not yet - the branch



the indicative (what is true)

- securing of Jerusalem and Judah
 - exile has ended
 - peace from foreign powers
 - temple completed
 - means of grace accessible



the imperative (our response)

- though the temple was restored, there was still a division between God and his people
- in Christ, that division was no more (temple veil - Matthew 27:51)
- with us, God's spirit is at rest
- consummation yet to come, when God will deal with the nations
- our focus should not be on earthly victories, but what is yet to come