

## Zechariah 6:1-8 – Chariots of Freedom

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Trapp, Delitzsch, Clarke, Geneva, Handfuls, Barnes, Henry, INT, Gill, Young, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Sometimes your children think you are stupid when you tell them to do something and you get frustrated because you can't get them to do better.** Sometimes **church members don't want to be accountable to elders and believe they know everything there is to know.** And elders feel like giving up. Sometimes **civil authorities threaten people for speaking against sin, and they even act like they know what is best for you and your children.** Some people go postal. Some **false religions believe you are false and want to wipe the church off from the map!** This can make you feel helpless.

**Considering these challenges in society, kingdom building is an uphill battle.** To make matters worse, when some Christians see the challenges from the family, church, state, and false religions, they cop-out 虎头蛇尾. They say: "Isolate ourselves...and wait for the Lord to return." It might seem a reasonable thing to give up. In fact, that's how Judah responded when they saw their enemies triumphing. **But God promises to help you to establish his kingdom in spite of the enemies. Hear this today.**

Our headings are:

**Description of the Horses**

**Duty of the Horses**

Our goals are: **That you, the redeemed, will be encouraged, knowing that you are copiously 丰富地 assisted by God's Spirit to do the work of kingdom building.**

### **Description of the Chariots**

1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, **four chariots** were coming from **between two mountains**, and the mountains were **mountains of bronze**. 2 With the first chariot were **red** horses, with the second chariot **black** horses, 3 with the third chariot **white** horses, and with the fourth chariot **dappled (spotted)** horses—strong steeds 第四輛車套著有斑點的壯馬.

**1. Zechariah saw 4 chariots coming from between 2 bronze mountains.**

**2. What are these mountains...and why are they bronze? Mountains refer to God's kingdom.** Mountains speak of security and permanence. Bronze, an alloy, is strong. God's kingdom would be established and could never be destroyed. (Psalm 72) So bronze mountains represent God's immovable power and influence in the world!

**3. The 4 chariots came from between these mountains 4 chariots came.** Why are they coming from between the mountains?

Between the mountains were valleys. **Valleys often picture God's judgment or a place of God's judgment.**

**Psalms 36:6 Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast.**

The "great deep" refers to valleys...valleys as in oceans or between mountains.

**4. These 4 chariots were pulled by horses of 4 different colors: red, then black, then white, and then, spotted horses.** Chariots were **notably used in war**. So this is a picture of **God's judgment**. And these horses were **noticeably strong**- not old sickly horses. God made them strong – **undefeatable**. They had to be strong to do God's work. Hear God's rebuke of Job!

**Job 39:19 "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?"**

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 **four spirits of heaven**, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth.

**5. These 4 chariots and horses represented the four spirits (winds) of heaven and they do the Lord's bidding all over the earth.**

**Daniel 7:2 Daniel spoke, saying, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.**

Another example: God used **the 4 winds (spirits) to disperse wicked nations**.

**Jeremiah 49:36 Against Elam I will bring the four winds** From the four quarters of heaven, And scatter 分散 **them toward all those winds**; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.

**The 4 spirits are ministering spirits, angels.** (Sometimes wind does mean Holy Spirit, though.)

**Psalms 104:3...Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, 4 Who makes His angels spirits,** His ministers a flame of fire.

Simply put: God is sending out his angels to do his work...to capture and punish the nations that threatened his people.

6 "The one with the **black horses is going to the north** country, the **white are going after them**, and the **dappled are going toward the south country.**"

## **6. What part of the earth were these chariots and horses (angels) going?**

**a. The black horses and their chariot were going north.** Black often signified **sickness and disease**. (Revelation 6) This is what happens after bloodshed.

**b. The white horses and their chariots were** following the black horses **north**. White horses were for victory celebration. (Chapter 1: The red horse came first, showing God's destruction of your enemies, and then the speckled 斑点 horse of red and white, showing progression. Finally, the white horse, which showed victory.

**c. The spotted horses went to the south.**

**d. What happen to the red horses?** They don't seem to be doing any work here. They had done the work already. See V8.

**Horses were the major weapon in war in those days**, so they were appropriately used to show how God uses angels to protect his people.

## **7. Lessons:**

**a. God always gives encouragement for his people so they could continue the fight.** If you are discouraged it is because you are not using **God's encouragement in his Word**. You are looking at the enemy and being overwhelmed 不堪重负. So read your Bible. Don't be overwhelmed by stubborn children, by sickly churches, by a suppressive state, or what ISIS did in Nice, France, this week.

**b. Angels are always beside you.** You may not see them, but that doesn't mean they are missing. You never fight alone! Now look how they fight!

## **Duty of the Chariots**

7 Then the **strong steeds went out, eager to go**, that they might walk to and fro **throughout the land**. And He said, "**Go, walk** to and fro throughout the land." So they **walked to and fro throughout the land**.

8 And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, "**See, those who go toward the north** country have **given rest to My Spirit** in the north country."

### **1. The horses that were pulling their chariots were eager to go about their duty on the earth as God's ministering spirits.**

They were eager to destroy the wicked. Three headed north, one, south.

Psalms 68:17 The **chariots of God are twenty thousand**, Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.

**So the Lord sent the horses (carrying the winds of judgment) on their way.** These angels were pictured as going out from Jerusalem, where God dwelt.

### **2. These horses, with the angels of judgment walked all over the land. Why? This taught Israel that the Lord had power over everything and everyone on earth. Judah needn't be afraid. They could rebuild the temple, restore worship, and ready themselves for kingdom expansion. Yes, after God conquered the nations, the people had rest.**

### **3. Do you see the benefit of this vision to the Jews of Zechariah's day? The Jews in Jerusalem had felt weak and wondered if they could face their enemies around, so this would have encouraged them. This conquering of the enemy after captivity was predicted 250 years before through Isaiah.**

Isaiah 66:20 "Then they shall **bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations**, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

Notice the irony here: **God's is like a brass mountain, but the enemies of his people would be blown away by the wind of his justice!**

### **4. So what were the spotted horses doing in the south?** (The spotted horse pictured a less severe judgment.)

The enemy in the south had to be controlled, but were not as wicked. The major enemy in the South was Egypt. To a lesser extent, there were threats from Arabia. But why was Egypt such a threat 威胁? Egypt was the place to where many Jews ran in an attempt to escape God's judgment before captivity, but Egypt was savage to the Jews. Jeremiah was taken there and likely died there.

## 5. Lessons:

**a. The Lord promised to protect his church as you work to build his kingdom.** This means you should not be afraid of anyone. Don't fear false religions. Don't fear ill health. Don't worry about foolish children. God has his angels at the ready to help you do his work. None can stop him.

Psalms 91:9 Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 **For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.**

**b. This power of God's providence 护理 was notably displayed in the suffering and death of Jesus.**

Acts 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 28 "to **do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.**

**c. This work started in Jerusalem, as before, and then spread throughout the earth.**

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one **sat upon each of them**. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**In V8, the Spirit rested on the enemy and destroyed them. At Pentecost the Spirit rested of his children and gave them the power to conquer the enemy.** You are now more than conquerors.

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**d. All other kingdoms will be destroyed, but God will remain and his church shall remain.**

**e. Today God uses ministers of his Gospel to open and close the kingdom!** Their preaching saves and severs. This is why you must support the preaching of the Gospel around the world. You are the angels of the Lord. This is how the nations will submit. This is how the Spirit works.

Psalms 66:3...**Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit** themselves to You.

## Conclusion:

**Four chariots with horses came from God to take the mighty judgment wind of God to the world.** God's people would no longer be afraid, but could confidently go about the work of rebuilding the temple, restoring worship, and readying themselves for the spread of the kingdom throughout the world.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

It is hard to be a Christian and faithfully work for God and build up his church with so many pressures around.

It is hard to be a good mother or father when children are rebellious.

It is hard to be an elder when members are lazy.

It is hard to be a good citizen in a country that the leaders pressure people to live godless lives.

It is hard to not be distracted when terrorism is at our front door. But:

**1. Know that God says: "It is not by your might, nor by your power, but by my Spirit – my power."** If you get this, the challenges of kingdom building will become easier. And you won't worry. Trust removes worry.

**2. Know that God's Spirit will blow down those who set themselves against his kingdom** and reject the Word you take to them...every enemy.

**3. At the same time, know that God might use the Word of God that you preach to gently speak in the hearts of those who want to surrender.** He might show them Christ on the cross as the only hope for salvation. They may be brought into the kingdom of Jesus...every enemy.

Finally: While God's Spirit is a refreshing life-giving breath to Christians, he is a destructive tornado 龙卷风 to you if you are not a Christian. Will you listen to his soft voice or will you have to hear when he speaks in thunder? Surrender and receive the offer of free life and a place in his eternal kingdom – entrance that was purchased through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross. He died in the place of sinners.