

VISION #1 – GOD IS WORKING – PART ONE

--ZECHARIAH 1:7-13--

INTRODUCTION:

After giving God's call for repentance, Zechariah did not receive new revelation from God for about three months. The word of the LORD that he received came in the form of visions, in a single night Zechariah received eight visions that outlined God's dealings with Israel from the time of their judgment by God under the Gentile rulers until they are restored to their land with a rebuilt city and temple under the Messiah King.

I. THE WORD OF THE LORD (Zechariah 1:7)

- a. Zechariah begins his second prophecy by giving us the date of the _____ day of the 11th month. (Haggai 1:14-15; 2:10-19)
- b. Zechariah's visions are a reminder that it is the _____ that drives believers to persist in whatever work the Lord has called them to do. (1st Corinthians 15:51-58)
- c. Zechariah's visions gave his people _____ in their present struggle.
- d. In much the same way, Peter reminded his readers that they were aliens and _____ in the world because Christ has not yet returned and fulfilled all His promises. (1st Peter 1:1-2)
- e. When people are struggling and fighting disappointment, they do not need _____ or speculations, they need divine revelation.

II. THE LORD IS ALWAYS ACTIVE (Zechariah 1:8)

- a. In verse eight Zechariah tells us that he saw his visions at _____.
- b. As the first vision began, Zechariah's attention was immediately drawn to a _____ at the center of the scene. (Daniel 7:13; Romans 5:14; 1st Corinthians 15:45)
- c. Zechariah goes on to describe that this man, the Angel of Yahweh was riding on a red _____.
- d. The man was not _____, with Him were red, sorrel, and white horses.

- e. Zechariah's vision shows us that at all times God is _____ toward the fulfillment of His plan.

III. THE LORD IS FULLY AWARE (Zechariah 1:9-11)

- a. Having seen in the _____ the Messiah and the host around Him, all on horseback, Zechariah asked "*My lord, what are these?*" (Zechariah 1:9a, NASB95)
- b. As I stated, there is someone that was not mentioned before, this someone is an _____ who was speaking with Zechariah.
- c. Even though Zechariah directed his question to the angel that was with him, and who said he would show him what these are, it was the _____ who was standing among the myrtle trees that gave the answer.
- d. The angelic horsemen have returned from patrol with their _____, and they brought their report to the Angel of Yahweh who was standing among the myrtle trees. (2nd Kings 19:35)
- e. Given the Messiah's readiness for battle, the report of the patrol was _____.
- f. This vision declared to troubled Israel that God _____ fully what they were facing.

IV. THE LORD IS OUR ADVOCATE (Zechariah 1:12-13)

- a. While the world was peaceful and quiet, many in Judah may have wondered if God were doing _____ on their behalf. (Job 16:19)
- b. The Son, the Angel of Yahweh said to the Father, "*O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no _____ for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah?*" (Zechariah 1:12b, NASB95)
- c. First, He appealed on account of the _____ and nature of God.
- d. Second, He appealed on account of God's _____ for His people.
- e. Third, the Son's intercession was based upon the _____ of the Godhead.
- f. Not only did God's Son plead for His people, but Yahweh _____ the Son's plea.

- g. In speaking gracious and comforting words to the angel, God relayed to Zechariah that His plan for His people had not _____ . (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; 60:4-14; 60:18-22)

CONCLUSION:

The Lord revealed to His prophet that though all appeared to be peaceful and quiet, God was advancing His purposes. The Lord was always and is always at work, even when people could not see all that He was doing behind the scenes. He was fully aware of the circumstances of both what was happening to Israel at that time and the timing of events in keeping with His plan for world history. Additionally, the Son was personally advocating on behalf of His people, interceding for them before the Father. In response to the Son's intercession, the Father confirmed that He would bring comfort to His people even as He had promised in the past. For these reasons, the people of Judah could take courage, confident that Yahweh had not forgotten or abandoned them. Yahweh was a work on their behalf, even if they could not see it visibly.

In our Scripture reading this morning the Apostle Peter reminded his readers that the Lord is never slow in keeping His promises but always has a purpose for what He does and when He does it. That truth, reflected in Zechariah's vision, would have been great encouragement to the Jews as they turned to the Lord and trusted in Him. For believers in any age, that truth brings the comfort and courage needed to live by faith and walk in obedience.