

VISION #2 – JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

--ZECHARIAH 1:18-21--

INTRODUCTION:

To address the mistreatment of God's people by the Gentile nations, Zechariah's second vision reveals God's plan to conquer and punish the nations. The vision shows us that God's plan is so comprehensive that it not only answered the concern of the people in Zechariah's day, but it also provided encouragement for believers throughout all time. With a vision of horns and craftsmen, God showed to Zechariah what He had already revealed some of which had already taken place and exactly what will happen in history's glorious conclusion. The nations will ultimately bow to one ruler, the Lord Jesus Christ. That promise is the hope of God's people in a world that rages against God and His Anointed One (Psalm 2:1-3).

I. THE HORNS (Zechariah 1:18-19)

- a. Zechariah lifted up his _____ and saw, this phrase is often used in Scripture to indicate something new or unusual. (Genesis 22:13; 33:1; Joshua 5:13)
- b. In this second vision, Zechariah's _____ was immediately and intently drawn to what was before him, it says that he looked and behold. (2nd Samuel 22:3; 1st Samuel 2:10)
- c. Zechariah would have immediately understood the symbolism of the _____, but he wanted clarity on their meaning in this vision. (Ezekiel 40:3; Daniel 7:16)
- d. The angel replied, "*These are the horns which have _____ Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.*" (Zechariah 1:19b, NASB95)
- e. The LORD was not revealing something new to Zechariah but was assuring him that He _____ what He had promised about Israel's oppressors. (Leviticus 26:33; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 5:32)
- f. The fact that the horns in this second vision represented the four _____ powers is confirmed both by the background

evidence of Daniel and by the description of what these horns will do in Zechariah.

II. THE CRAFTSMEN (Zechariah 1:20-21)

- a. This second vision was not yet over, after seeing the four horns and receiving the interpretation of them, the prophet writes, "*Then the LORD showed me _____ craftsmen.*" (Zechariah 1:20, NASB95)
- b. Once again, Zechariah wanted to understand what these _____ represented, he wanted to know their significance.
- c. As a result, these nations would be _____.
- d. One more question must be answered in order to understand all the _____ of this revelation.
- e. Zechariah's message does not stop here, because only three _____ and three craftsmen have been identified.
- f. Historically, parts of Daniel's and Zechariah's _____ have already taken place.

CONCLUSION:

For those in every age who witness the chaos of the evil nations the doctrine of divine sovereignty provides encouragement and comfort, not only for the people of Zechariah's day, but for all of God's people. In every age, the saints face enmity from the world. From God's perspective, to assault His people is to attack Him. This means, that in their hatred toward God's people, the nations have been raging and railing against God. This was true of Israel in the past as seen in our passage today, it is true of the church in the present, and it will be true of Israel again in the future. But the encouragement and comfort are ours when we understand that God is sovereign over all the nations, He remembers those who have persecuted us, mistreated us, imprisoned us, killed us and they have already been condemned and one day their final judgment will come. Take comfort in a God who is sovereign, who has promised us a home with Him some day in a kingdom that will never be defeated, a kingdom that will endure forever.