

Zechariah 6:1-15 And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains *were* mountains of brass. In the first chariot *were* red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; ³ And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot spotted and bay horses.

Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, “What *are* these, my lord? And the angel answered and said unto me, “These *are* the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth”. The black horses which *are* therein go forth into the North Country; and the white go forth after them; and the spotted go forth toward the south country. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. Then cried he upon me, and spoke unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the North Country have quieted my spirit in the North Country.

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Take of *them* of the captivity, *even* of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set *them* upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. And they *that are* far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And *this* shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God. (Zechariah 6:1-15 KJV)

Chapter 6 begins with same phrase as chapter 5, “Then I turned” and it was shown that this signified a turning away from the things associated with the reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, to other matters that would eventually follow these. The same is true of this phrase in chapter 6. The prophet is now focusing upon a vision in which he saw four chariots emerge from between two mountains. These mountains represent two powers, as developed after the death of Alexander the Great, when his two generals Ptolemy and Seleucus seized parts of his empire for themselves. Ptolemy took Egypt to the south of Israel and Seleucus took territory to the north. There followed continual warfare between these two empires as described in Daniel chapter 11 where they are described as the king of the north and the king of the south. These powers were succeeded by the Romans but since the fall of the Roman Empire, other nations have overtaken

them both. So towards the time of the end these mountains represent the two powers or confederacies that will be developed at the time of the end. In Daniel we are informed that, “And **at the time of the end** shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. (Dan 11:40-41) Now from Ezekiel 38 we can see these thing beginning to come to pass. The United States and Great Britain and the confederation known as NATO gave assurances to the rulers of Russia that North Atlantic Treaty organisation would not expand its territory towards the Russian border on five occasions. On five occasions these assurances were broken. The attempt by the Ukraine to enter NATO and the Eu, was a step too far. It would have effectively left Russia defenseless against the weapons that would be introduced by NATO. Russia gave warning but the West refused to give heed, leading to current Russian invasion of the Ukraine. So the scriptures teach us that before Christ Jesus returns in power and great glory the War of Armageddon will take place between the Power of the North (the Russo-Euro-Asian confederacy and the Power in the South centering on Israel, the strongest military power in the South backed by the United States and the United Kingdom. Ezekiel reveals that the Russian led invaders will be destroyed, and that the ships of Tarshish will be destroyed by an east wind. (Psalm 48:7).

So, the land of Israel lies between the Northern power and the power of the Southern alliances. The four chariots represent the Cherubic forces going forth to subdue the warlike nations. These are composed of the glorified saints bringing the world into submission to Yahweh’s appointed King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Zechariah witnesses those who went against the North Country and they report that they have quieted Yahweh’s spirit in the North Country.

Then the word of the Lord comes to Zechariah directing “take of them (recent returnees from Babylon) even Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah and take them to the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah and take of them silver and gold and make crowns to be set on the head of Joshua”. These men recently came from Babylon and brought with them offerings of silver and gold, as was permitted by the Persians, presumably to beautify the sanctuary of the Lord. These men from Babylon remind

us of the wise men from the east who, at a later date, came to Bethlehem with their gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh, to honour the one who will be greater than the temple. Then Zechariah was directed to “Behold the man whose name is **THE BRANCH**. He shall grow up out of his place. **He shall build the temple of the Lord**. Even he shall build the temple of the Lord, and he shall bear the glory, and **he shall sit and rule upon his throne**, and he shall be a **priest upon his throne**.” There are in the prophetic psalms and other prophecies, such as Ezekiel’s, indications of an enormous literal temple as a feature of the establishing of the glory of the Lord on the earth in the latter day.

Zechariah then puts the crown on the head of Joshua and in doing so combines in his person the offices of high priest and king. Zechariah says to him: “**Behold the man** whose name in the **BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord”. Joshua (Hebrew) and Jesus (Greek) are two forms of the same name, we can discern how wonderfully complete is the type. “Behold the man . . .” said Zechariah. We remember the other occasion when these words were spoken: “Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And **Pilate* said to them: Behold the man!” (John 19:5). The scene of humiliation portrayed by John and borne so patiently by the Lord Jesus Christ presents a vivid contrast with the picture in Zechariah of Joshua attired as king and priest. Soon this incident in Zechariah will find its counterpart at the return of Christ to occupy the throne of his father David.

* Note: - the word “*Pilate*” in the KJV version is in italics, indicating the it is not in the early texts and probably not in the original, this leads to the conclusion that the verse should read: “Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe, and said unto them, Behold the man!” This explains the violent reaction of the chief priests, who called for the crucifixion of the Lord (verse 6). They were well aware of the Old Testament background to his words; and in the context of his teaching about the kingdom of God and the restoration of the temple of his body (in John 2:19–21), they understood that he was applying the prophet’s messianic prophecy to himself.

But what are the spiritual lessons of the scene described in Zechariah? We note first that the crown worn by Joshua is made of the offerings of the men from

Babylon. These offerings appear to have been deliberately diverted from the temple to be used for this interesting purpose. Christ is greater than the temple. Our service to him is prompted by the knowledge that he is our Lord and king. When as conscientious objectors we may yet appear before military tribunals, we will plead that we owe our first allegiance to Christ. Nothing must ever come between us and our obedience to him. We must support our claim by a life devoted entirely to our king.

We have been bought with the blood of Christ. What are we doing with the liberty we enjoy in him? If we are truly serving our Lord, we are a witness to all we come into contact with of the reality of the rule of Christ. We help to form his crown. The figure is used beautifully by Paul in writing to believers in the first century: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" (1 Thess. 2:19). Similarly in Philippians Paul writes: "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved". Are we living examples of Christ's dominion established on earth?

This prophecy coincides with those of **Isaiah 9:6&7** "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this".

Isa 56:6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant"; Gentiles believers are not required to keep the Jewish Sabbath today, rather they are required to keep the vision of the thousand years Sabbath of Rest before their minds, observing the commandments of Christ in all that they say and do.

Isa 60:10 "And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee".

