

The 8 Cryptic Visions of Zechariah, IV

1. **Dan 9:24-25**---As soon as Babylon falls and Darius the Mede is on the throne (**539 BC**), the prophet Daniel is shown God's plan to restore His people when they return to Jerusalem from captivity.
2. The work of restoration would transpire during the 490 years of Jewish probation and will be accomplished along three lines:
 - a. **restoration of the people spiritually**--"finish transgression, make an end of sin, make reconciliation for iniquity. . ."
 - b. **restoration of the temple**--"anoint the most holy"
 - c. **restoration of the city of the Jerusalem**--as the capital and symbol of a restored Davidic kingdom--"the the streets shall be built again, and the walls. . ."
3. 40 years later (520 BC), Zechariah is called to the ministry and given 8 connected visions which basically repeat and re-affirm the work of restoration shown to Daniel many years before-- a program of restoration that was to basically embrace 3 lines of the Jewish economy (restoration of the people, the city and the temple at Jerusalem)
4. These visions were given to encourage the builders who had become discouraged because of the opposition to the work of rebuilding, as well as to restore confidence in God's leading and calling.
4. The 8 visions of Zechariah which incidentally were given in one night (without time gaps in between) follow an orderly pattern or progression: the first 5 visions of Zechariah are **restorative** or **reconstructive** in nature while the last 3 are **destructive** by nature

A Brief Survey of the 8 Visions of Zechariah

5. Notice now how this is shown in the listing below of the 8 visions in the book of Zechariah:

RESTORATIVE VISIONS

- a. **vision of the rider among the myrtle trees (Zech 1:7-17)**--a damage report in preparation for the work of restoration; the riders report that while the city of Jerusalem is in shambles and the temple is desolate, there is no attempt on the part of the surrounding nations to help rebuild and restore the fortunes of a downtrodden people; they are "at ease", uninvolved and albeit, happy that Israel is in such a forlorn state, and God is not happy with the heathens round about

- b. **vision of the 4 horns and the 4 carpenters (Zech 1:18-21)**--this vision gives the assurance that the temple in Jerusalem will be restored in spite of the efforts of the opposing nations to destroy it and make it desolate
- c. **vision of the man with the measuring line (Zech 2)**--this vision affirms that the city of Jerusalem which is in ruins and desolate will be rebuilt and repopulated with much people (see Zech 1:16-17)
- d. **vision of Joshua and the Angel (Zech 3:1-5, 9)**--this vision shows how the sanctuary service will result in the removal of the stains of the sins of the people resulting in their spiritual restoration

DESTRUCTIVE VISIONS

- e. **vision of the flying roll (Zech 5:1-4)**--this vision dramatizes the plight of those who have broken the Law and are become the objects of its curse (**Gal 3:30; Deut 27:26**); those who failed to receive the benefit of having their filthy garments removed through a work of priestly atonement in a restored sanctuary are shown in this vision as incurring the curses of a broken Law
- f. **vision of the woman in a basket (Zech 5:5-11)**--this vision guarantees the removal of everything impure in the land of Israel and their re-transportation to the source of impurity--the land of Shinar (Babylon) (**Zech 3:9**)
- g. **vision of the 4 chariots (Zech 6:1-8)**—punitive judgments on the surrounding heath nations; limited local application in the time of Zechariah

The Zechariah-Revelation Connection

6. **QUESTION:** The question at this point is, is there a connection between the book of Zechariah and the book of Revelation?

ANSWER: there is definitely as link, some kind of relationship existing between the two books as the following proves:

- there are 8 connected visions in the book of Revelation as there are also 8 visions in Zechariah
- moreover, the 8 visions of Revelation were given in one sitting just as the 8 visions of Zechariah were given in one night!
- the visions of Zechariah re-emerge in the book of Revelation clearly showing a link between the two books; for example:
 - o vision of the man with a measuring line (**Zech 2:1**) re-appears in **Rev 11:1**

- o the vision of the 2 olive trees and the golden candlesticks (**Zech 4:1-6**), re-appear in **Revelation 11:3-4**
7. The truth of the matter is, John used the 8 visions of Zechariah as the thematic background for the book of Revelation; in other words, the 8 visions of Zechariah serve as the scaffolding upon which the 8 visions of Revelation are structured around
 9. **QUESTION:** The important question at this junction is, why did John borrow the visions of Zechariah and use them as launching pad for writing his own 8 visions in the book of Revelation?

ANSWERS:

- the visions of Zechariah will have a re-application in the Christian dispensation which will, in fact, be on a larger, global scale
 - they are borrowed to underscore the fact that the issues surrounding the events prophesied in the visions of Revelation will be no different from those in the time of Zechariah, i.e. a work of restoration involving the people, the city and the sanctuary
 - the work of restoration envisioned in the 8 connected visions of Revelation will be accomplished during troublous times, just the work of restoration in the time of Zechariah was accomplished in troublous times
9. Notice some even astounding parallels between Zechariah and Revelation
 - Just as the gift of prophecy was restored to Israel after its 70-year long captivity to Babylon to help restore the temple in Jerusalem, the gift of prophecy was also restored to spiritual Israel after its 1,260 years of captivity to spiritual Babylon to expedite the work of rebuilding and restoring the truth about the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary
 - Just as there were three personages involved in opposing the work of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem in the time of Zechariah (Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem) , there are also 3 agencies who are combining forces to oppose the work of restoring the truth for the time of the end (the dragon, the beast and the false prophet)
 10. In view of these astounding observations, the book of Revelation should not just be viewed merely as a book of disconnected predictions and events, but rather a set of messages that were given specially to the church who will be around during time of the end, to call and encourage them to restore the truth about the heavenly sanctuary—a truth that have been “cast down” and trodden underfoot for 1,260 years (Dan 8:11, 13, 26; Rev 11:3-4)
 11. The 8 visions of Zechariah resurface as the 8 visions of Revelation

- 1) The 7 churches (**Rev 1-3**)
- 2) The 7 Seals (**Rev 4-7**)
- 3) The 7 Trumpets (**Rev 8-11**)
- 4) The Great Controversy which started in heaven and culminates in the final conflict over the Sabbath (**Rev 12-14**)
- 5) The 7 Last Plagues (**Rev 15-16**)
- 6) The Fall of spiritual Babylon (**Rev 17-18**)
- 7) The Second coming of Jesus to deliver His people and to bind Satan for a thousand years (**Rev 19-20**)
- 8) The New Jerusalem (**Rev 21-22**)