

A&P Bible Church | Weekly Study Zechariah 1:18-21 & 2:1-13

The book is one of consolation and hope, beginning with a call to repentance and concluding with prophecies concerning the return and reign of Christ.

Zechariah predicted more about Messiah than any other prophet except Isaiah. Prophecies concerning His first coming include Zech. 3:8; 9:9, 16; 11:11-13; 12:10; 13:1, 6; and prophecies to be fulfilled at His second coming include 6:12; 14:1-21.

Thank you to Yeshua Elohim Bible Church for their online Study Bible - visit www.yebc.net for more!

Throughout the week continue to look through the scriptures, think through the questions, and apply the Word to your life. Email any questions during the week to Brandon & Travis at ap.brandongarcia@gmail.com & ap.travisjohnson@gmail.com.

MONDAY***Zechariah 1:18-21 Breakdown***

18 (2:1) Once again I looked and this time I saw four horns.

Zechariah recorded his second vision. He saw four horns.

19 So I asked the angelic messenger who spoke with me, "What are these?" He replied, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

Zechariah asked an angel for the meaning of the four horns. The four horns are the Gentile powers which were mentioned in Daniel 2, and 7. These four Gentile powers are Babylon, Medo-Persia (Iran), Greece, and the revived Roman Empire of the coming Antichrist. These four Gentile powers scattered Israel all over the world.

20 Next the Lord showed me four blacksmiths.

In this same vision, Jehovah showed Zechariah four blacksmiths.

21 I asked, "What are these going to do?" He answered, "These horns are the ones that have scattered Judah so that there is no one to be seen. But the blacksmiths have come to terrify Judah's enemies and cut off the horns of the nations that have thrust themselves against the land of Judah in order to scatter its people."

Zechariah wanted to know the mission of these four blacksmiths. These four blacksmiths were going to punish the four Gentile nations who scattered Israel. The four blacksmiths are Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Pompey, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Cyrus will punish Babylon for scattering Israel. Alexander the Great will punish Medo-Persia for scattering Israel. Pompey will punish the Hellenistic Empire for scattering Israel. Jesus Christ will punish the revived Roman Empire of the Antichrist for scattering Israel. All of the nations were called to scatter Israel, but they did so too harshly. Therefore, God will send these blacksmiths to punish these anti-Semitic nations.

What is the little horn in the book of Daniel?

In one of his visions, the prophet Daniel sees a "little horn" that grows out of a terrible beast (Daniel 7:8). The emergence of the little horn, its unusual form, and its behavior cause Daniel to wonder greatly. Fortunately for him and for us, the vision is explained.

Before we examine the little horn, we'll take a quick look at the whole of Daniel's vision. The prophet sees four beasts (Daniel 7:1-7) representing four kingdoms (verse 17). The first three beasts represent Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece.

The fourth and final beast that Daniel sees is the most dreadful—"terrifying and frightening and very powerful" (Daniel 7:7). This fourth beast has "bronze claws" (verse 19) and "large iron teeth" with which it annihilates its prey (verse 7). Daniel sees that the terrible beast has ten horns. As he ponders the meaning of the horns, a little horn begins to grow from the midst of the ten. This little horn is quite unusual. As it emerges, three of the original horns are plucked out by the roots. Daniel sees that the little horn has "eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully" (Daniel 7:8). The proud, boastful words of the little horn continue until the day of judgment (verses 9-10). At that time, "the beast was slain and its body . . . thrown into the blazing fire" (verse 11). That is the end of the little horn.

Daniel is troubled by the vision of the beast and the little horn, and he asks specifically about it (Daniel 7:19). An angel explains: the beast's ten horns are ten kings who will arise from that kingdom (verse 24). A horn in the Bible is often a symbol of strength and authority (see Psalms 89:24 and 132:17). The little, boastful horn with a human mouth and eyes represents a specific king; at his rise to power, three of the original kings will fall. This evil king pictured as the little horn "will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people" (Daniel 7:25). He will seek to change times and laws, and he will exert oppressive power over God's people for three and a half years (verse 25).

The fourth beast that Daniel saw was the Roman Empire, the world kingdom that would arise after Greece. The little horn that Daniel saw is a world leader especially noted for his blasphemies and the scope of his power. Because this little horn is ruling at the time Judgment Day comes, we identify it as the Antichrist, the "ruler who will come" who sets up the abomination in Daniel 9:27. The mention of three and a half years corresponds with the duration of the Antichrist's rule in Revelation 11:2; 12:14; and 13:5.

The little horn emerges from the fourth beast, a fact that suggests that, in the end times, there will be a "revival" of the old Roman Empire. This restoration, whatever form it takes, will feature a coalition of ten world leaders. The Antichrist will make his move to the top at the expense of three of those leaders, and he will eventually wield global authority. A true tyrant, the Antichrist will seek to control every aspect of life (see Revelation 13:16-17). He will even demand to be worshiped (verse 15).

The little horn of Daniel 7 is the same as the first beast of Revelation 13. The beast in Revelation also has ten horns. And, like the little horn of Daniel's fourth beast, John's beast "was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies. . . . It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name" (Revelation 13:5-6).

In summary, the little horn that Daniel sees is the Antichrist, a world leader who rises to power from within a league of ten future kings. This little horn will blaspheme God and persecute God's people during the tribulation, right up until the second coming of the Lord Jesus. At that time, the Antichrist's "power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever" (Daniel 7:26), and Jesus will establish His millennial kingdom. The reign of the Antichrist is limited: forty-two months, and no more (Revelation 13:5). The little horn will lose his war against God. His boastful blasphemy and wanton violence are only temporary. The reign of Christ is eternal.

(Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/little-horn.html>)

TUESDAY

Today you'll be listening through J Vernon McGee's sermon on Zechariah 1:20-21.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=7081&rel=mcgee_j_vernon/Zec

Daniel 2:31-45 Breakdown

2:31 "You, O king, were watching as a great statue—one of impressive size and extraordinary brightness—was standing before you. Its appearance caused alarm.

Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan king who looked to idols for supernatural guidance. Therefore, God communicated to this pagan king through a giant idol. When Nebuchadnezzar heard this first sentence, he must have been amazed that this young teenager knew his dream.

2:32 As for that statue, its head was of fine gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs were of bronze. 2:33 Its legs were of iron; its feet were partly of iron and partly of clay.

The statue was made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. Notice that the statue goes top to bottom from expensive to inexpensive metals. Also, except for the clay, it goes top to bottom from weak to strong metals.

2:34 You were watching as a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its iron and clay feet, breaking them in pieces.

If human hands do not cut out this stone, then the stone must be cut out by supernatural hands. The stone hits the large statue at its feet. This supernaturally cut stone caused the statue to topple and fall. The statue broke to pieces.

2:35 Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were broken in pieces without distinction and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors that the wind carries away. Not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a large mountain that filled the entire earth.

The metal from the statue became chaff. The chaff was blown away by the wind. Not one trace of the statue debris could be found. The stone became a large mountain which filled the entire earth. A mountain in Scripture was usually symbolic of a kingdom.

2:36 This was the dream. Now we will set forth before the king its interpretation.

Nebuchadnezzar must have been amazed that this Jewish teenager was able to recite his dream in every detail. He was very interested in hearing the interpretation.

2:37 "You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has granted you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. 2:38 Wherever human beings, wild animals, and birds of the sky live—he has given them into your power. He has given you authority over them all. You are the head of gold.

Adam was to be the king of the first empire, but he lost his authority at the fall. Therefore, God chose Nebuchadnezzar to become the first world empire. Nebuchadnezzar ruled the greatest empire in the world, but he would butcher it. However, his influence would affect other nations who followed him. Even the modern global world is influenced by Nebuchadnezzar's previous monarchy.

2:39 Now after you another kingdom will arise, one inferior to yours. Then a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule in all the earth.

The second and third kingdoms would be inferior to Babylon. The second kingdom was Medo-Persia. The third kingdom was Greece. Daniel would give more prophetic revelation on these two kingdoms later in his book.

2:40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom, one strong like iron. Just like iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything, and as iron breaks in pieces all of these metals, so it will break in pieces and crush the others. 2:41 In that you were seeing feet and toes partly of wet clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom. Some of the strength of iron will be in it, for you saw iron mixed with wet clay. 2:42 In that the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, the latter stages of this kingdom will be partly strong and partly fragile. 2:43 And in that you saw iron mixed with wet clay, so people will be mixed with one another without adhering to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

The fourth Gentile kingdom would be the last days empire of the Antichrist. It will start as powerful iron, be deduced to ten kingdoms of clay, and then it will become all powerful again. This kingdom will be so strong, that it will shatter everything that gets in its way. It will completely destroy all of the influences of the other three kingdoms.

Rome would become the beginning of this kingdom. It would later disintegrate into the two legs of the Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox Byzantine) empires. In the last days, it will disintegrate into the ten toes of the empire of the Antichrist. The ten toes will most likely be the division of the earth into ten regions. These ten regions could be ruled by the ten kings in Revelation.

2:44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will raise up an everlasting kingdom that will not be destroyed and a kingdom that will not be left to another people. It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these kingdoms. But it will stand forever.

This fourth Gentile kingdom of the Antichrist will be replaced by an everlasting kingdom which will never be destroyed. It is interesting to note that the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" is about kings who have attempted to put the Roman Empire back together again. Attila the Hun sacked the city, but he realized he could not repair Rome. He took his barbarians and left town. The Pope crowned Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Emperor, but he could not handle the geography either. Napoleon, Mussolini, and Hitler had their runs, but they were all destroyed. The Antichrist will be successful in reuniting the Roman Empire with the rest of the world, but only for seven years.

2:45 You saw that a stone was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands; it smashed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold into pieces. The great God has made known to the king what will occur in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is reliable."

The stone which was cut from the mountain by divine hands is Jesus, the coming Messianic King. He will end the Time of the Gentiles by destroying this last Gentile Kingdom. He will rule from Jerusalem with a rod of iron.

When Jesus returns, He will not need a council, Parliament, or Congress to assist Him. He will become an absolute dictator. He will rule with a rod of iron. He will run the strictest government in history. Anyone who commits a crime will be arrested immediately, possibly by angels. Anyone who does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ by the time of their 100th birthday will be executed. Any nation who does not attend the Feast of Tabernacles will be punished with drought. Many future people who are born into the Millennial Kingdom will still possess their sin nature. Even in perfect Garden of Eden conditions, they will not like the autocratic rule of the Lord Jesus Christ. They will enjoy hell much better.

WEDNESDAY**Jeremiah 2:1-13 Breakdown**

2:1 (2:5) I looked again, and there was a man with a measuring line in his hand.

Zechariah recorded his third vision. He sees a man with a measuring line in his hand. The man is an angel. He is getting ready to start a building project.

2 I asked, "Where are you going?" He replied, "To measure Jerusalem in order to determine its width and its length."

The angel is measuring Jerusalem.

3 At this point the angelic messenger who spoke to me went out, and another messenger came to meet him

The Angel of Jehovah approaches Zechariah. The Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate form. Another angel meets with Jesus.

4 and said to him, "Hurry, speak to this young man as follows: 'Jerusalem will no longer be enclosed by walls because of the multitude of people and animals there.

Jesus tells the angel to hurry to Zechariah and tell him the meaning of his vision. The message is that during the Millennial Kingdom, Jerusalem will be too great in population to hold all of the people and animals. Jerusalem will no longer need walls, because they will be living in a time of peace and security.

5 But I (the Lord says) will be a wall of fire surrounding Jerusalem and the source of glory in her midst.' "

During the Millennial Kingdom, there will be a wall of fire around Jerusalem. The Shekinah Glory will be present in the future Jerusalem.

6 *“You there! Flee from the northland!” says the Lord, “for like the four winds of heaven I have scattered you,” says the Lord.*

During the Great Tribulation, there will be many Jews in the city of the rebuilt Babylon.

7 *“Escape, Zion, you who live among the Babylonians!”*

The Jews are commanded to flee from the city, because Jehovah is going to destroy it just as He did with Sodom and Gomorrah.

8 *For the Lord who rules over all says to me that for his own glory he has sent me to the nations that plundered you—for anyone who touches you touches the pupil of his eye.*

The speaker is Jehovah. Anyone who comes against Israel is poking God in the eye. He will get irritated and slap them away.

9 *“I am about to punish them in such a way,” he says, “that they will be looted by their own slaves.” Then you will know that the Lord who rules over all has sent me.*

Babylon will enslave many people during the Great Tribulation. Babylon will be destroyed and plundered by her own slaves. The speaker Jehovah sends Himself to Babylon. The “me” who is sent is the Messiah Jesus.

10 *“Sing out and be happy, Zion my daughter! For look, I have come; I will settle in your midst,” says the Lord.*

After the Great Tribulation, Israel will sing happy songs. Jehovah will be living in the midst of Jerusalem as Jesus the Messiah.

11 *“Many nations will join themselves to the Lord on the day of salvation, and they will also be my people. Indeed, I will settle in the midst of you all.” Then you will know that the Lord who rules over all has sent me to you.*

The day of salvation is the last day of the Great Tribulation. All of Israel who survives the Great Tribulation will receive national salvation. During the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will live bodily in Jerusalem.

12 The Lord will take possession of Judah as his portion in the holy land and he will choose Jerusalem once again.

Jehovah will inherit Judah as His chosen nation. This is the only time in the battle that Israel is called the “holy land.” Jehovah will choose Jerusalem to become the capital of the Millennial Kingdom.

13 Be silent in the Lord's presence, all people everywhere, for he is being moved to action in his holy dwelling place.

Jehovah calls the earth to be silent, because Jesus is returning to earth. All people in the world will be affected by the second coming of Christ. Jesus is moving to fulfill His goal of making Jerusalem the capital of the Messianic Kingdom.

THURSDAY

Question: "What is the significance of Ezekiel's temple?"

Answer: Ezekiel was born into the priestly line ([Ezekiel 1:3](#)), but he served God as a prophet. In [Ezekiel 40–48](#) Ezekiel sees a detailed vision of a grand and glorious temple. This lengthy vision has been the subject of much speculation and various interpretations through the years.

Ezekiel began his prophetic ministry before Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC. Prior to the destruction, many false prophets assured the people that God was with them and that nothing would happen to them ([Ezekiel 13:8–16](#)). True prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel warned the people that God's judgment was coming ([Ezekiel 2:3–8](#)). In [Ezekiel 8–11](#), the prophet sees the glory of God leaving the temple.

Ezekiel was taken into exile to Babylon, probably in the second deportation of Jews, in 597 BC. In exile, he encouraged Israel that judgment would not last forever, but that God would restore Israel and once again live among them. In [Ezekiel 37](#) he relates the vision of "[The Valley of Dry Bones](#)," in which he describes the reunification and reanimation of a dead Israel. In chapters 38–39, Ezekiel predicts a battle with [Gog and Magog](#), in which Israel's enemies are defeated. Then, in chapters 40–48, in the twenty-fifth year of Israel's captivity, Ezekiel describes an enormous new temple (chapters 40–42). The glory of God returns (chapter 43), [sacrifices are resumed](#) (chapters 44–46), and the land is restored to the people of Israel (47–48). The hearts of the people will have been changed ([Ezekiel 36:26–27](#)), and even Gentiles have a place in the restored kingdom ([Ezekiel 47:22](#)). The land will be ruled by a Davidic [Prince](#) ([Ezekiel 44:3](#); see also 37:24–25; 34:23–24).

In his vision of the temple, Ezekiel is taken to Israel where he sees a mountain and a city. He is met by "a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand" ([Ezekiel 40:3](#)). The man tells Ezekiel to pay careful attention to everything he sees and hears and to relate all the details to God's people (verse 4). The measuring of the layout of the temple complex fills the next three chapters of Ezekiel.

The question is when and how will the vision of Ezekiel's temple be fulfilled? Should we look for a literal fulfillment? Or is this vision symbolic of the future perfection of God's presence among His people? Has it already been fulfilled? Or is the fulfillment still future? If Ezekiel's temple is future, will it be fulfilled in the church age, the millennium, or in the eternal state? The answers to these questions will be determined, most likely, by the interpreter's presuppositions regarding the literal or symbolic nature of prophecy and fulfillment.

Arguing for a literal fulfillment of the prophecy of Ezekiel's temple are the numerous details of Ezekiel's vision and the specific dimensions of the temple. If the vision is to be literally fulfilled, then the fulfillment must be future, for nothing like what is described in Ezekiel 40-48 has taken place up to this point. The dimensions of Ezekiel's temple are far larger than the temple in Jesus' day, and that temple was a grand structure.

Most who expect a literal fulfillment of Ezekiel's temple expect it to be erected in the millennial kingdom, a 1,000-year reign of Christ upon the earth. During the millennium, glorified saints from the present age will live in contact with natural human beings who will still need to make a decision for Christ in order to be saved—and many will choose not to trust Him. The sacrificial system described in Ezekiel cannot be for the forgiveness of sins, for Christ has accomplished that once and for all (Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-14). In this interpretive approach, the sacrifices are seen as memorials of Christ's death or as rites for the ceremonial cleansing of the temple, but not as a means to forgive sins.

In the figurative view of Ezekiel's temple, the prophet's vision simply reiterates that God will once again dwell with His people in a perfect relationship. This relationship is described in the language that the people of the day (and especially for Ezekiel as a priest) would have understood—a Jewish temple of magnificent proportions, with regular, perfect sacrifices, with the Messiah presiding, and with the glory of God visibly evident. In later visions to other prophets, God revealed more about how He would accomplish this with the Messiah Himself replacing the temple, the sacrifices, and the land. The presence of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit would be more immediately evident than ever before. The fulfillment of Ezekiel's temple could thus be realized in the church age to some degree and, in the age to come, to perfection.

Regardless of which approach is taken, the vision of Ezekiel's temple says that God has not forsaken His people and that His relationship with them will be restored and elevated to a new, never-before-conceived glory and intimacy. Present circumstances should never cause one to doubt the promises of God.

(Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Ezekiel-temple.html>)

FRIDAY

Today you'll be listening through J Vernon McGee's sermon on Zechariah 2:1-13.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=7082&rel=mcgee_j_vernon/Zec