Zechariah 1:18-21

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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April 2015

***Zechariah 1:18–21*** (ESV)  
**18** And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! **19** And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these?” And he said to me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.” **20** Then YHWH showed me four craftsmen. **21** And I said, “What are these coming to do?” He said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it.”

Note: Zech 1:18-21 in our Christian tradition corresponds to Zech 2:1-4 in the Hebrew tradition. There are a number of cases where verse numbering and even the order of the books themselves differ between the two traditions. This is one of those cases.

1. These four verses record Zechariah’s Second Vision. Remember the context:  
   a) Summarize the main point of the, Introduction, Zech 1:-1-6.  
   b) Summarize the main point of the First Vision, Zech 1:7-17.
2. The second vision is about all “horns” (Hebrew קֶרֶן **keren**). Think about animals with horns and how they use them. Look up other uses of this word, such as Dt 33:17, 1 Sam 2:1, Ps 18:2, Ps 22:21, Ps 89:24, Ps 92:10, Jer 48:25, Ezek 29:21. What all does a horn symbolize? And why?
3. As an aside, thinking about horns, recall that the altar of sacrifice in the tabernacle and the temple had four horns – see Exod 38:1-2. What was the altar used for? What is the symbolism of those horns? Recall also the account of Adonijah (**Adoni-yahu**) in 1 Kings 1:50-51, when he clung to the horns of the altar. Look up that passage along with Ps 18:2, 2 Sam 22:3. Why did Adoniyahu cling to the horns of the altar? Now look up Luke 1:69. How is the Messiah connected to all this??
4. There are four horns. Why the number four? Consider Isaiah 11:12, Ezekiel 1:17, Ezekiel 37:9, Matthew 24:31. Recall too there were four horns on the altar. What may that have symbolized?
5. The “angel” was talking to Zechariah. Thinking back to our previous discussions, what is an “angel”?
6. What are “the horns” that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem?
7. Why do you think the angel specifically mentions “Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem” instead of using a single all –inclusive term like “YHWH’s people”?
8. Next Zechariah is shown a four “craftsmen” (Hebrew חָרָשׁ **kharash**). What is the meaning of this word?
9. Zechariah asks what the four craftsmen are coming to do. The angel’s reply in Zech 1:21 seems to first talk about the four horns (Zech 1:21a) and then answer the question regarding the craftsmen in Zech 1:21b. Who were the horns and what did they do? Who were the craftsmen and what did they come do to?
10. It is interesting that Zech 1:21 talk only about Judah (not mentioning Israel). Any idea why this might be the case? (Your guess is as good as mine…).
11. Summarize the message of this prophesy. What would it have meant to the people hearing it?
12. When will this happen? It is not stated, so you will have to guess what is perhaps being implied here. Connected to this question, how should the knowledge of the fact that God sees what is happening and will eventually punish their abusers change their actions or behavior?
13. How do we see ourselves in this passage? What does Yahuah want you to learn about HIM? What does He want you to learn about YOURSELF?