Zechariah 1:7-16

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 1:7–17*** (ESV)  
**7** On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of YHWH came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, **8** “I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. **9** Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ **10** So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom YHWH has sent to patrol the earth.’ **11** And they answered the angel of YHWH who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’ **12** Then the angel of YHWH said, ‘YHWH of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’ **13** And YHWH answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. **14** So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘Cry out, Thus says YHWH of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. **15** And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster. **16** Therefore, thus says YHWH, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares YHWH of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. **17** Cry out again, Thus says YHWH of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and YHWH will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.’ ”

1. How much later is this first vision than the introductory word from Yahuah in the prior section?
2. What significance might there be in that we are told this vision took place “in the night”?
3. The first thing to try and figure out, is who are the different “actors” in this vision, and are any the same, or all they all different. Look carefully at the angels and people listed in this section:
4. the man riding on a red horse (1:8)
5. the man standing among the myrtle trees (1:8 & 1:10)
6. the “angel who talked with me” (1:9, 1:13 & 1:14))
7. the angel of Yahuah standing among the myrtle trees (1:11)

Which ones seem the same or different, and why do you think so? Consider also Zechariah 1:18, 2:3, 4:1, 5:5, & 6:4 regarding “the angel who talked with me”.

1. What is an angel? The Hebrew word is מַלְאָךְ **mal’ak** ”angel, messenger”.
2. Look at a few examples of the Hebrew word מַלְאָךְ **mal’ak**, such as those in Gen 10:1, Josh 7:22, Judges 7:24, 1 Sam 19:11, 2 Sam 24:16, and Hag 1:13. What does **mal’ak** really mean? When your English Bible says “angel” or “messenger”, how do we know if it refers to a “human being” or a “heavenly being”?
3. The horses were to patrol the earth. What was their report, and what did that mean? If you have time, research the Behistun Inscription which tells of King Darius bringing peace throughout his empire. Was Zechariah talking just about physical “rest” or also about spiritual “rest”? Why?
4. What was Yahuah’s view of this report (verse 1:15), and why? Check out Jer 6:13-15 and note the relevance of that prophet’s words.
5. What does the 70 years refer of verse 1:12 refer to? Note Jeremiah 25:11 and 29:10.
6. Read the command of Yahuah to His people in Lev 25:4, and then the punishment if they would receive if they did not walk in obedience in Lev 26:27-35. Now read 2 Chronicles 36:20-21. What does this tell us about the reason for the 70 years in Zechariah 1:12?
7. How did Yahuah’s people “further the disaster” in verse 1:15?. Consider Jeremiah 7:24, 8:5-6 & 15:6.
8. What was the nature of Yahuah’s words in reply to the question about when he would have mercy on Jerusalem again? (verse 1:13). And why was His response this way?
9. What does it mean to be jealous (1:14)? How is Yahuah jealous of his people? In what ways is He jealous of us?
10. What are Yahuah’s words of comfort? What will do for Jerusalem and His people? What is “his house”?
11. In verse 1:16, Yahuah says he will **return (Hebrew shuv)** with mercy. Reread verse 1:3. Who seems to be making the first step to **shuv** here in 1:16, the people or Yahuah?
12. What is the meaning of the “measuring line stretched over Jerusalem”?
13. See what you can learn about myrtle trees? Is there any significance in the fact that this vision takes place in the midst of myrtle trees? Note Zech 8:15 which refers to the use of myrtle trees in the making of “booths” for the Appointed Time of Sukkot. Recall that Sukkot symbolized God’s presence and His provision. Note also the reference to myrtle trees in Isaiah 41:19 and 55:13, where they are included as a description of the future Messianic kingdom blessing.
14. What are the three colors of the horses? The significance of the colors is not clear. Do you have any thoughts on what these colors may symbolize?
15. What is the final word of encouragement proclaimed in 1:17? Remember that this is prophecy. These are words directly from Yahuah to His people – a people that are weighted down with the worries of life. How should this message motivate them?
16. Given that Zechariah is a prophetic book (and if we have read ahead, we know that parts of it CLEARLY prophesy of the Messiah and the last days), is it possible that this first vision is also a picture of the Messiah? If so, in what way?
17. 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?