Zechariah 6:1-8

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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November 2015

***Zechariah 6:1–8***Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze. The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses—all of them strong. Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” And the angel answered and said to me, “These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the Lord of all the earth. The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.” When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, “Go, patrol the earth.” So they patrolled the earth. Then he cried to me, “Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country.”

1. The first section of Chapter 6 presents the EIGHTH vision of Zechariah: “The Four Chariots”. Review again the main points of the previous visions:  
   a) Introduction, Zech 1:1-6  
   b) First Vision, “Man & horses in the myrtle trees”: Zech 1:7-17   
   c) Second Vision, “Four horns and craftsmen”: Zech 1:18-21 .   
   d) Third Vision & Oracle, “ Man with measuring line”: Zech 2  
   e) Fourth Vision, “Satan accuses the High Priest”: Zech 3   
   f) Fifth Vision, “Golden Lampstand & Olive Trees”: Zech 4  
   g) Sixth Vision, “Flying Scroll”: Zech 5:1-4  
   h) Seventh Vision, “Woman in Basket”: Zech 5:5-11
2. This is the final vision in a series of eight visions that Zechariah documents in the first have of the book. What commonalities can be found in comparing this final vision to Zechariah’s first vision (the man and horses in the myrtle trees)?
3. There are four chariots. Where was the symbolic number of “four” used in other visions? What does “four” symbolize?
4. The chariots present themselves to “the Lord of all the earth”. What is “the Lord” in Hebrew, and what does it actually mean?
5. Why do you think the chariots present themselves to YHWH? What do the chariots represent?
6. The chariots came from between two mountains. What might the two mountains represent?
7. The two mountains were made of bronze. What might the bronze symbolize? Note also 1 Kings 7:15-22 as well as 2 Kings 25:13-17.
8. What about the colors of the horses? Note that they are different than in the first vision.
9. Compare to the four horses of Rev 6:1-7, when the first four seals are opened.
10. Some horses go to the north, and others to the south. Why? Why do you think that east and west were not mentioned?
11. It is interesting that the red horses are not mentioned as going out in any direction. Any thoughts on why that may be? Compare to vision one where the man was sitting on a horse and it was presumably the other three groups of horses that were sent out to patrol the earth. What color horse was the man sitting on in vision one?
12. In Zech 6:8, who do you think is speaking to Zechariah, and why?
13. In Zech 6:5 the ESV translated “These are going out to the four winds of the heaven”. However a more literal translation is “These going out [are] four spirits / winds of heaven.”. The Hebrew word **ruach** can mean either “spirit” or “wind”. Note also that “heaven” is often used as a circumlocution (when one term is used in place of another) for “God / YHWH”. If you were translating this verse, would you translate **ruach** as spirit or winds, and why?
14. The horses were strong and impatient to go patrol the earth. What does this imply?
15. In Zech 6:8, why do you think the Text states only that his Spirit is set to rest in the north? Why is the south not mentioned?
16. What is the overall meaning of this vision?
17. Has the prophesy of this last vision been fulfilled already? If not when will it be fulfilled?
18. Think again about the similarities of the first and the last visions, in which horses / messengers were sent out to patrol all the earth. The first vision states that the patrol comes back with the report, “All the earth remains at rest”. But was it really at rest? And now the last vision ends with the result off the patrol having set YHWH’s Spirit at rest. So what do we see about the world situation, in looking at all these visions as a whole, from start to finish?
19. How would this vision have been received by the people of Zechariah’s time? How would it have encouraged them to respond?
20. How does this prophetic vision apply to us today?