

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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CHARIOTS OF GOD

(Zechariah 6:1-8)

The most challenging thing to an individual, whether in the secular or religious world, is to move away from a comfortable environment - physically or mentally. In the secular world, it may be a change of jobs, or moving to a new city. In religion, it may be a change to a new denomination. Certainly, the biggest challenge is a change in beliefs, especially for those who have been dedicated to, and active in their church. And yet, the Bible speaks of 'latter rain', or more light to come. Jesus told his disciples, *I have yet many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear [them] now; but when he, the spirit of the truth may come, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak from himself, but as many things as he will hear, he will speak, and he will tell you the things coming* (Jn 16:12-13 - Greek Interlinear). After the ascension, Jesus continued to reveal spiritual things to the church through those men. Did he reveal everything? If that were true, men would have understood prophecies, like Daniel and Revelation, long ago. In each generation, individuals must receive the Spirit of the truth for their day - each must learn to hear God's voice in their conscience, and learn obedience to His precepts.

It is assumed that the reader is familiar with God's way of teaching, using allegories, symbols and discerning of stories allegorically. (cf Mk 4:2, 11-13, 34; Mt 13:34; Gal 4:22-24) Additionally, there are two studies on the seven mountains and seven kings of Revelation, chapter 17, which give needed background. These are available through DTG Ministries, or House of Wisdom. The challenge to you, the reader, is to allow God to minister, even if it means moving from a place of comfort in your understanding. **2 Tim 2:7:** *Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.*

Ezr 6:14: *And the elders of the Jews built and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building (of the temple) by command of the God of Israel...* (RSV) Haggai and Zechariah, as did Ezra and Nehemiah, wrote in the time when God was delivering Israel out of Babylon after 70 years of captivity, as prophesied by Jeremiah. And, Daniel, who spent most of his life in Babylon, recorded prophecies concerning God's people from his day to the end of time. These writings are especially intended to be understood by the last generation, as well as, when God moves to deliver His people out of spiritual Babylon (spiritual confusion), also discussed in the book of Revelation. The book of Zechariah fills in some of the details of the last days, based on an allegorical view of Israel's literal deliverance.

Zech 6:1: *1. And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains were mountains of brass.* In ancient times, cities were built on hills for military advantage in case of war. However, Babylon was built over a river, so the description as a mountain by Jeremiah is spiritual: **Jer 51:24-25:** *24. And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the Lord. 25. Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroys all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.* Babylon's destruction of 'all the earth', likewise, has to be spiritual. The concept of spiritual confusion destroys the inward earth - man's thinking.

Jesus gave a spiritual illustration of a 'spiritual mountain' when he said that anyone having faith the size of a

tiny mustard seed can remove mountains (Mt 17:20). Mountains are a person's strongholds, their mind-set, their way of thinking that rules their inward kingdom. Mount Zion is a figure of God's kingdom as being developed in his people, literally called his holy hill (Ps 24:3), on which Jerusalem sits, in which is the temple of God, the literal being a figure of man's spiritual temple (cp Gal 4:22-24; 1 Cor 3:16). In Zechariah, there are two brass mountains, two periods of times, separated by the time of the chariots. Revelation helps us understand those times.

Speaking of the beast's heads: **Rev 17:9:** *Here [is] the mind having wisdom; the seven heads are seven mountains, upon which the woman doth sit.* (Young's literal Bible) Literally, a person's head is the source of what rules all they say and do. A mountain is another way of expressing the same thing, but enriching the symbolism, which can be taken inward and outward. In the Revelation 17 studies, it was discussed how each head of the beast represents a period of time when evil dominated the people of the world, and becoming progressively worse with each head. Opposite to the rule of evil, good dominates when the majority are following God, represented by a king (Verse 10). In Zechariah 6:1 we have a mountain, a king, a mountain, representing three major periods in earth's history, but also an inward type of a person's struggle to overcome. A bad mountain represents a stronghold of evil.

Brass is a combination of metals dug out of the earth and made in a furnace of fire. It is a symbol of impure thoughts of the heart (oven/furnace - Hos 7:6) which brings a person into bondage. Therefore, brass is used in connection with being bound in chains, having affliction, etc. (2 Ki 25:7) **Jer 6:28:** *All of them are departing (from God), rebelling, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all causing corruption [Hebrew].* The brazen serpent is a figure of the Son of God on the cross: **Jn 3:14:** *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up.* Christ, taking the corrupted human nature, suffered temptation, and also affliction by man. Because of his success, he is shown figuratively in scripture with polished brass feet (Dan 10:6; Rev 1:15), a symbol of the direction of the thoughts of the heart. Christ put to death the 'old man (corrupted thinking)' - having polished the brass by never sinning. He is a type of what we must do.

Zech 6;2-3: *2. In the first chariot were red horses; and in the second chariot black horses; 3. And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled (or, spotted) and bay (or, strong) horses.* A horse is a four-legged animal that is strong and swift. In ancient times the nations with the most horses were usually the more dominant among countries. God uses this imagery to illustrate a spiritual lesson. Horses are leaders and chariots are the people who follow. **Isa 63:11-13:** *11. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him? 12. That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name? 13. That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?* The spirit of Christ in Moses (horse) led the people (chariot) in the wilderness.

Ps 68:17: *The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the sanctuary.* (American Standard) The King James Bible erroneously supplied the word "angels" in this text. While angels are likened to chariots (2 Ki 6:17), this verse speaks of the great multitude of God's people. This imagery is used by Isaiah also: **Isa 66:15:** *For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.* Chariots are messengers, or people who follow leaders - horses. It is through His people that God will rebuke unbelievers with the truth. (Also 2 Ki 6:17; unsanctified - Ps 20:7; Isa 31:1-3; Ps 76:6)

As all beasts, horses are symbols of thought. **Ps 32:9:** *Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle* (the law - Old & New Testaments)... A horse must be guided by the rider. So, depending on the rider of the horse, the messenger can be good or bad. The color

of a horse indicates the spiritual quality, and context determines if good or bad. Because a horse is used, it indicates a people earthly in their understanding. God uses certain individuals to lead his people, or, we as individuals can be like a horse. However, while we listen to spiritual leaders, we are not to lean on man, good or bad: **Isa 31:3**: *Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit.*

Zech 6:4-5: *4. Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, What are these, my lord? 5. And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits ⁽⁷³⁰⁷⁾ of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. The underlined phrase is used earlier in Zechariah, but translated a little different. **Zech 2:6-7**: *6. Ho, Ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds ⁽⁷³⁰⁷⁾ of the heavens, saith the Lord. 7. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwells with the daughter of Babylon.**

In Zechariah's time, the people of God were literally called to come out of Babylon. There was also a spiritual calling as God appealed to the heart, as there have been in every religious movement directed by God. To come from the four winds is indicative of the people being scattered in every nation (or, denomination). It is reasonable to assume that the four horse drawn chariots are a movement of people being called out of spiritual Babylon. By discerning the activities of the horses, and merging what Zechariah wrote with that of John, it can be ascertained the periods of time.

Zech 6:6-8: *6. The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grised (spotted) go forth toward the south country. 7. And the bay (strong) went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. 8. Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country.*

Israel, it's activities, governing laws and the ancient geography wherein she dwelled are types to teach us our own spiritual journey today. The north country is Babylon, the south is Egypt. Those sent to 'walk to and fro' in the earth are listening to the spirit of God, and seeking His understanding. Amos defines the negative of this idea as wandering, but not listening to God: **Amos 8:11-12**: *11. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: 12. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.* Again, north is a symbol for Babylon, defined in Genesis 11:9 as 'confusion', and east is symbol for self. (in the tabernacle a priest moved from east to west toward God).

Rev 17:8-10: *8. ...when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. 10. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come...* By comparing verses 8 & 10 it can be seen that when a head is in existence, a king is not. John wrote during the time of the sixth king - or the Apostolic church period, between the fifth and sixth mountains (heads). By looking at history, the next mountain and king can be ascertained. Notice what John wrote about the apostasy in his day:

2 Jn 1:7: *For many deceivers (literally, those going astray) have entered into the world, who are not confessing that Jesus Christ is appearing in the flesh (the present tense makes this the spiritual coming of Christ as the 'spirit of the truth'). This is a deceiver and the antichrist. 1 Jn 2:18-19: *18. Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that the antichrist shall come, also now are there many antichrist; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.* The word "antichrist" is a transliterated Greek word that means "in place of, or instead of Christ." When a person knowingly puts self ahead of Christ by word or action, they are said to be "antichrist." Their thoughts*

and actions are based on human thinking, eventually leading to a great apostasy.

Paul speaks of what evolves from this apostasy: **2 Thes 2:1-7:** *1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.* (RSV) Paul is saying, in effect, that the next mountain will come into existence before the return of Christ. Early, in the sixth century, the Pope was officially appointed head of the church by Caesar, a man who was touted as a god to be worshiped. It was Caesar restraining the 'man of sin' from being manifested. Gradually, the Pope gained the power, and through his influence enforced false doctrines on the church, many of which the churches today still retain, such as the doctrine of the Trinity. Outwardly, the Papacy is the sixth head.

Between the sixth and seventh head arose another king - the Protestant movement. This is the movement revealed in the sixth chapter of Zechariah by the horses and chariots coming from between two brass mountains. The black horses are those early in the movement, who came away from the obvious errors, like man forgiving sin, the worship of Mary and other saints and paying the church to release a loved one from Purgatory to go to heaven. Being black horses indicates that these did not come far enough away from erroneous teachings, and therefore, remained in confusion about God.

The white horses are that element of the Reformation which continued into the 19th century (often referred to as the Advent Movement, or great awakening) when there were many splinter churches, some of which advanced beyond the black horses in spiritual understanding. Specifically, the white horses threw out the doctrine of the Trinity, making Jesus Christ a real Son of the living God, the cornerstone of the their churches. Several groups did this, some of which we can see in our recent history. But notice, scripture says the white horses followed the black ones into the north (Babylon Zec 6:6). Some of these denominations went back to the Trinity teaching. So, giving up what truth they had, they followed the black horses into confusion and darkness. The black and white horses, which went north, quieted the Spirit of God, i.e. they stopped their ears from hearing God's voice.

Jer 13:23: *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.* Spots result from the influence of the sin nature, that cannot be changed. A leopard's spots are pretty much round, where the horse's spots are said to be "grisled" because the spots are irregular. (Grisled is not used today - the word means 'spotted') The fourth chariot consisted of two different colored horses. The spotted horses are the people who go south, into Egypt, a symbol of the world (see a Bible map of the area). The spotted, perhaps discouraged with the hypocrisy, left the church and went into the world.

Bay is properly - strong, brave, steadfast, persistent ⁽⁵⁵⁴⁾. The root ⁽⁵⁵³⁾ of this word is used in Ruth: **Ruth 1:18:** *When she (Naomi) saw that she (Ruth) was steadfastly minded ⁽⁵⁵³⁾ to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.* Because of the context of Zechariah, "bay" is applied to some of the horses, but spiritually it should be understood to be 'strong' horses, or people of spiritual strength. To walk to and fro through the earth is to examine self according to the Lord's understanding. **2 Ch 16:9:** *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...* The spotted and bay horses represent those coming out of the denominations today. Many are giving up religion and going into the world, while others are seeking an abiding relationship with the Lord. They are forming other churches, or, often assembling with others in private homes, many

individuals scattered to the four winds.

Nothing is said about the activities of the red horses, which leads one to think they never left their place. It is interesting to note that there were thousands of Jews who were comfortably settled in Babylon and chose to stay there after having been granted freedom to return to Jerusalem and Judah. Over the years I have encountered many who were not interested in hearing anything that disagrees with their church doctrine, or what they already believed. Like the red horses, they are called but do not listen to the Spirit: **Jn 5:39-40:** *You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness concerning me; 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.* (RSV) *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* (cp 2 Tim 2:7) No doctrine is worth anything if it cannot stand the test of the Scriptures.

Summary: The two mountains of brass are two kingdoms, or, the last two heads of the beast (Rev 17:3), or, significant periods of great rebellion, bondage and suffering, a result of leaning on man. **Deu 4:30-31:** *30. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; 31. ...he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.* Jesus spoke of a future tribulation as getting worse. **Mt 24:21:** *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.* And Paul spoke of it happening in his day. **1 Th 3:4:** *For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.* Tribulation in the apostolic church grew greater through the time of Rome. In our day, the last brass mountain is coming into existence before our very eyes. And, while we can expect a time of the suffering of God's people, He said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee* (Heb 13:5).

2 Cor 10:3-5: *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh 4 (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), 5 casting down imaginations, and every high thing (mountain) that is exalted against the (God's) knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* {American Standard} (supplied)

It can be readily seen, by those with spiritual eyes, that the effects of false teachings still affect the church today. Therefore, if we are understanding Revelation 17 and Zechariah 6:1-8 correctly, the outward manifestation of the seventh head of the dragon is happening right before us. It yet remains to be seen exactly how the ten horns on the seventh head will be manifested. However, they receive authority as kings (crowns on horns) one hour with the beast (Rev 17:12). The horns are crowned in Revelation 13:1. So, Revelation 13 happens in the last remnant of time, which appears to be right before us. And since the second beast of Revelation 13 forms an image to the first beast, its fulfillment too, is in our near future. Perhaps men will once again attempt to bring about a collusion of church and state. Do not be discouraged or fearful. Just as Christ went into the fiery furnace with the three Hebrews, captives of Babylon, he will do the same for us.

Rom 8:35-39: *35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!*