

Zechariah's Night Visions

Lesson One: Zech.1:1-6 Introduction

Introduction: "We walk by faith and not by sight!" The topic is "spiritual perspective!"

Eph.1:18-23 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

1. According to this passage, who currently controls all that happens in this world and what purpose does he plan to accomplish through his control?

Rom.13:1,2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God...

2. What does this passage tell us about governments, elections, and those who hold ruling power?

The Jewish Spiritual Perspective in the Days of Zechariah!

3. Name the five major world powers vying to be in control in Old Testament times.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

4. How did the struggle these nations had for control affect the Jewish nation over time?

5. Historical Context in the Days of Zechariah:

- a. The Persian ruler Cyrus overthrew Babylon in _____ and sent the exiles home.
 - b. When Cyrus died in _____, his son Cambyses became ruler.
 - c. When Cambyses died suddenly in _____, Darius I became ruler.
6. The Jews came back to the promised land and began rebuilding the temple.
- a. Rebuilding the temple began in _____.
 - b. Due to local opposition and political decrees, temple construction was halted in _____.
 - c. In 520BC God sent two prophets to encourage the people of Judah to complete the temple rebuilding. The prophets were _____ and _____.

Zechariah 1:1-6 -- Temple Lessons!

1:1,2 *In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: ² “The Lord was very angry with your forefathers.*

7. It was October, 520BC. As the exiled Jews surveyed the ruins of Solomon’s temple and thought about rebuilding, what does Zechariah want the Jews to remember before they resumed the work?

1:3-6 Remember and Repent

Jeremiah 7 – The temple sermon! *This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² “Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message: “‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord. ³ This is what the Lord Almighty... says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!” ... ⁸ But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. ⁹ “ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? ¹¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord.*

8. Zechariah’s opening message is rooted in an earlier “temple sermon” Jeremiah preached before the time of captivity.
 - a. Where did Jeremiah deliver this sermon?
 - b. To whom did Jeremiah preach this lesson?

- c. What charge did God bring against his people in Jer.7:9-11?

- d. What false comfort did the people in Jeremiah's day take from the continued presence of Solomon's temple? Jer.7:4,10

1:4,5,6a *Do not be like your forefathers, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. ⁵ Where are your forefathers now? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶ But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your forefathers?*

- 9. In the days before the Jews were carried into exile, under the leadership of several kings they had kept Solomon's temple in repair. However, at the same time, what spiritual issue did the people not keep in good repair?

1:3,6b *Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty ... 6b "Then they repented and said, 'The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.'"*

- 10. Learning lessons from the past, before the Jews who returned from exile devote their efforts to rebuilding the temple, what is the first thing they must do? (Zech.1:3,6b)

Application Point:

- 11. Zechariah Truth: A beautiful well maintained church building can be a "spiritual lie" which the members of the congregation are declaring to the world around them. Explain