

Lesson Three:

The Night Visions of Zechariah

The Second Night Vision: Four Horns and Four Craftsmen, Zeph.1:18-21

Introduction: In this second and shortest of the night visions, God moves from the view from a universal perspective to the international field of governments on this earth. While the world was at peace in the first vision, God makes it clear here that this peace will not last long. God uses this second night vision to assure his people that he is preparing “four craftsmen” to bring about his retribution. What is going to happen next on the international stage is no accident. It is the hand of a righteous God in action.

1:18,19 *Then I looked up—and there before me were four horns! ¹⁹I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these?” He answered me, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.”*

1. When in history was the nation of Judah and Israel scattered by being carried into captivity and the city of Jerusalem destroyed?
2. What do the horns represent in the vision according to the Angel?
3. Name the two nations that carried the Jews of Israel and Judah into captivity.

1:20,21 *Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. ²¹I asked, “What are these coming to do?” He answered, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.”*

4. According to the Angel, what do the “four craftsmen” represent?
5. Name the nation pictured as “the four craftsmen.”

6. List several reasons why God chose the picture of “craftsmen” to “terrify and throw down these horns” instead of picturing a powerful army to accomplish the task?

Spiritual Truth!

7. With this vision, what spiritual fact is God revealing to the exiles about the coming international events?
8. What “spiritual truths” can we learn from this vision about international events in our world and the methods God employs to govern them?

Lesson Four: The Third Night Vision

A Man with a Measuring Line, Zeph.2:1-13

Hard Times: The Jews who returned from exile faced hard times. The city and temple were in ruins. Necessities were in short supply. Enemies on every side opposed their presence. This was a time that seemed filled with hopelessness and despair. It seemed to the Jews as if things could not get better. God addresses his third vision to that hopelessness.

2:1 *Then I looked up—and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand!*

1. If the exiles in the days of Zechariah took a survey of conditions in the city of Jerusalem at that moment, what would they see? the marks of destruction are everywhere: architecture burned, families separated, treasures pillaged.
2. What would those ruined conditions measured in such a survey tell the people about their relationship with God and his blessings? God has departed from his people and his temple.

2:2 *I asked, “Where are you going?” He answered me, “To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.”*

3. What good news does this man bring to the returning exiles as they survey the ruined city and temple? In this vision there is hope in the midst of destruction. The man with the measuring line embraces the idea that Jerusalem will be rebuilt.

2:3,4 *Then the angel who was speaking to me left, and another angel came to meet him⁴ and said to him: “Run, tell that young man, ‘Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of men and livestock in it.*

4. What were the surprising instructions the new angel brought to the measuring man?

2:5 *And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will be its glory within.’*

5. What two spiritual blessings will characterize the new prosperity God promises to his people?

The Second Oracle: Zech.2:6-13

An Invitation: the third vision spoke of God’s presence and his vision for the new Jerusalem. Now the Lord invites his exiled people to leave Babylon and return home. The oracle has two parts. **2:6-9** expands upon the second vision while **2:10-13** furthers the third vision. Having predicted wrath against the nations and the return of the Lord to Jerusalem in the first oracle, God now adds his own voice confirming these truths.

2:6,7 *“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the Lord, “for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,” declares the Lord. “Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon!”*

6. To whom is God speaking with this oracle as he comments on the message of this third Night Vision?

2:8,9 *For this is what the Lord Almighty says: “After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye—⁹I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me.*

7. God is addressing the previous vision of the “craftsmen” coming to destroy the “horns.” Who is God describing as the “apple of his eye”?
8. Based on what Zechariah says here, how was his message initially received by the Jews in Judah and by the exiles in Babylon?

2:10 *“Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord.*

9. While the exiles found reason for despair as they stood among the ruins, what reason for rejoicing does God provide to them in this night vision?

2:11,12 *The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.*

10. What new urgency does God add to the task of rebuilding the temple with this new revelation about the future?

2:13 *Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.”*

11. While the rebuilding of the ruined temple in Jerusalem might not appear to the world as a matter of great importance, what message does God send to the rest of the world in regard to this event?

The Spiritual Principle:

12. Identify the spiritual principle that God reveals with this Third Night Vision, noting how it applied to Zechariah’s day and how it still applies to ours.