

## **Zechariah's 8 Visions**

Last week we did an overview where we learned that the **structure** of Zechariah contains;

- an opening call to repentance – 1:1-6
- 8 Apocalyptic Visions – 1:7-6:15
- 2 Instructive Sermons - 7:1-8:23
- 2 Prophetic Oracles – 9:1-14:21

We saw that the thrust of the book really is a to proclaim to **God's exiled and greatly humbled people** that God will indeed **save His people** and restore them to Himself through the salvation He will work by His great **Messiah King-Priest**. Moreover, God will bless and restore His chosen nation Israel to a **glory more grand and glorious** than they ever have experienced in the past, a **glory** which beginning in Moses, is spoken of in all the major prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel but also in many minor prophets as well, and in some of the most vivid prophecies, **Israel's future glory** is seen most clearly in **Zechariah**. This of course will come about when Christ returns to **rule all the nations** of the earth from Jerusalem, **"14:9 And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one."**

Now today we embark on a look at **Zechariah's 8 "night visions."** This is a section of **Apocalyptic** text in the first

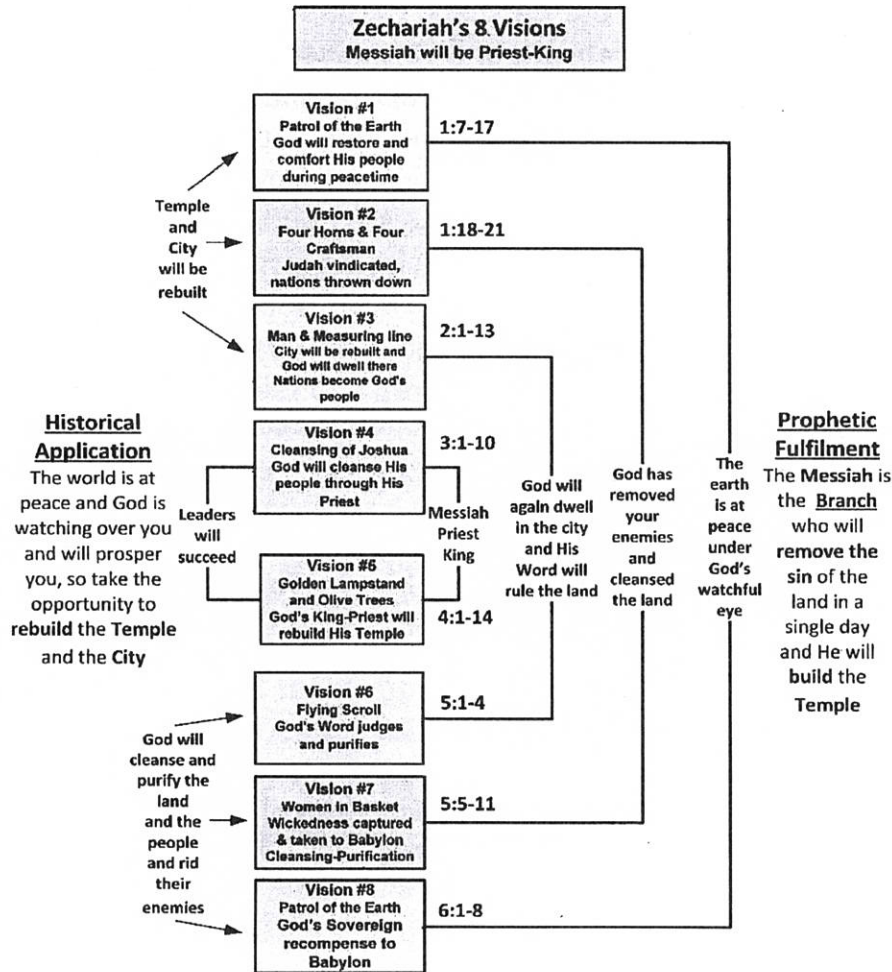
half of the book spanning **1:7-6:8**. These visions that God gave him have both a **historical application** and a **future prophetic** role. That is, that they applied to the people to whom Zechariah initially wrote, and they also apply to a future time as they are filled with Messianic pictures of the **role** and **ministry** of **Jesus**, God's anointed King Priest who will ultimately fulfill God's eternal purpose for humanity and the world.

Now these **8 visions** are connected as a **whole** and bear a message together which foreshadow the **role** and **ministry** of **Jesus**. They have a unique **chiastic structure**, for which I have provided a diagram for you to look at. A **chiasm** is a **literary tool** used in many places in the Bible, typically in Wisdom, Poetry, and Prophetic literature that puts an **emphasis** on certain parts of the whole, usually in the **middle section** of the **chiastic structure**. Here, the **emphasis** is on the middle section where the **Messiah** who will come will both "**remove the sin of the land in one day**" (Vision 4) and will also "**rule on His throne**" as a Priest King (Vision 5).

This is the chiastic structure, where they have these **matching paired visions** which work out from the center two visions, which is how these visions put **emphasis** on the grand important theme of the center two visions.

These **8 Visions** are actually summarized by the prophet in the text which directly follows them **chapter 6:9-15**. There we see the **emphasis** that the **chiastic structure**

carried being restated in a prophecy about the **Branch**. The **Branch** (a term for the Messiah), will have both a **Priestly** role in removing the sin of God's people, and will also be a **Priest** who **rules on the throne** over God's people as **King**.



You might read these messages like this; God has destroyed your **enemies**, delivered you from **exile**, brought you back to the **city** and the **land**. He is providing **comfort** and **assurance** to you His afflicted people that His watchful eye is upon you, and He will see to your protection from your enemies. He has promised that His **Temple** will be **rebuilt**, and **commissioned** you to **rebuild it**, so you can once again worship Him and His **presence** can **dwell among you**, and you can be **blessed and prosper**. So **get on** with the **work rebuilding** the **Temple** and to restore His worship, and attend to your faithfulness to His Covenant with you.

