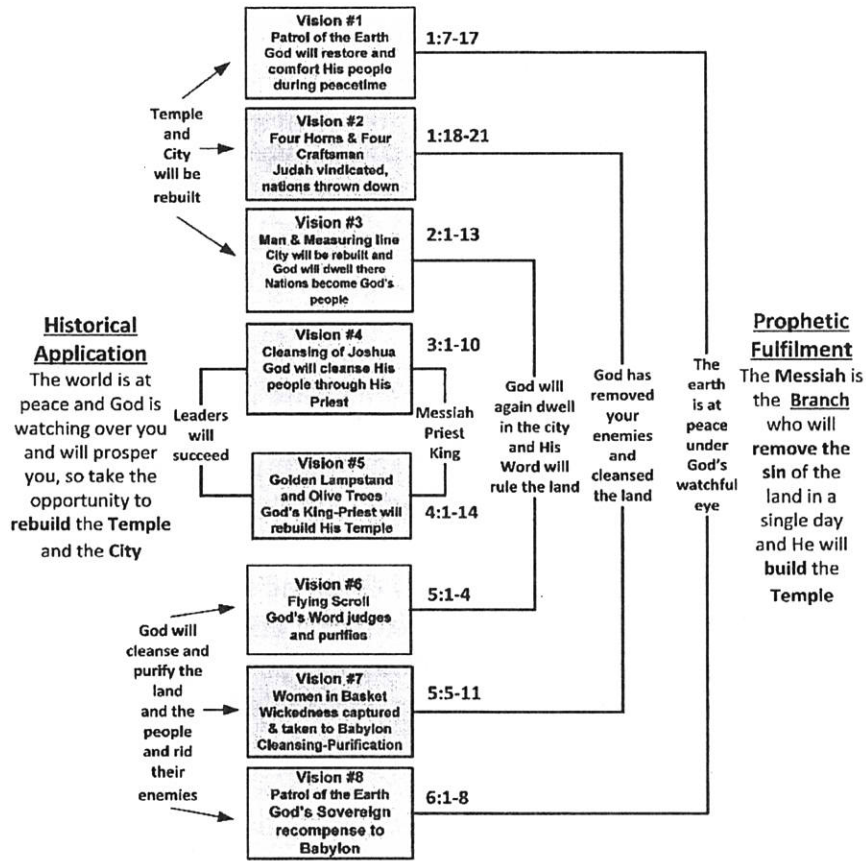


Zechariah's 8 Visions

You remember that last week we began looking at the section of text in chapter 1:7-6:8, **Zechariah's 8 night visions**. We saw that each of these has both a historical application for those of Zechariah's day, as well as a future prophetic significance. These 8 Visions together form a **unified message** as they are put together by the **Holy Spirit** in a chiastic structure where the emphasis is placed on the **center two visions**. The center of this **chiasm** is a great prophetic message concerning the **Branch**, the one whom God will send who is both a **Priest**, who will remove the iniquity of God's people and the land but will also rule them as **King** upon His throne. This of course is a prophecy of none other than **Jesus Christ** our **Lord**, God anointed Priest-King.

These **four** (#1 & #8, #2 & #7) all combine to fit into the whole **eight visions** to afford several rich and encouraging messages for the **afflicted returning exiles**. You might read these messages in these four visions 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 **dwel 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.

Zechariah's 8 Visions
Messiah will be Priest-King



We have seen today in **Vision #3**, the **man with the Measuring line**, that the Lord will again **dwell** in the midst of **His people Zion, in Jerusalem**, after He **regathers** them in the land and plunders those nations that plundered His people. Not only will the **Temple** be rebuilt and their **enemies restrained** during a time of **peace**, but here He **promises** that indeed the **city will be rebuilt** also. It also looks to a **future prophetic** day when the **nations will be converted** and become **God's people**, when the **Gentiles nations** gather together with **Judah** as God's people, and He will dwell in their midst.

In **Vision #6** of the **Flying Scroll**, we learned of God's concern with His Law, and the implementation of God's Word in the **civil and social life** of the **covenant community** now that they are returning to **Judah**. God's Word will be the standard by which the rulers rule and by which every man shall **govern his own house** in all the land. The prophet reminds the people that **God's Word** has **inherent power** to find out sin and bring the curse down upon evil doers, everywhere, in every place. Thus the vision of the scroll flying over the whole land. But the **future prophetic significance** is also obvious. That is, when God's great **Priest-King** rules in Jerusalem over **Israel** and the **nations**, as the previous visions have established, the **Law** will go forth from **Zion** and **rule** the land.

In Vision #4, **The Cleansing of Joshua, the High Priest**, the prophet now brings into sharp focus the **problem of their sin** before the **Holy God**. If God is to come again and **dwell among them** as the last vision **promised**, there must be a **consecration** of the **people** and the **land**. Not only will God remove the evil from the land, but He will perform the **priestly duty** of making **atonement** for their **sin**. This vision therefore presents the **High Priest** on **trial** before God clothed with the **filthy garments** of the **nation's sin**, and **Satan** standing to accuse them. The Lord then **takes away his iniquity**, after **rebuking the devil**, then removing his filthy garments and **giving him clean festal robes** and **clean turban**. Here is seen the work of the High Priest in **making atonement** for the **sin of the people**, and God **receiving his work**. Then a remarkable prophecy is made about **the Branch** who will come and **remove the sin of the entire nation in one day**. The result will be **"3:10 'In that day,' declares the Lord of hosts,' every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree."** Oh blessed **endless day** come quickly!

