

# Zerchariah One

Transcribed from tape of Jeremiah using *The Authorized Version* of the Holy Bible.

Verses 1 and 2:

- 1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zerchariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,
- 2 The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

Now the time of Darius is the time that they were rebuilding Jerusalem. Now it started with Cyrus, king of persia, who actually helped the jews to go back and rebuild the temple; he even helped finance them. But they had so much opposition with some of the outside nations that the work was practically stalled for a period of about 18 years or so. And the main thing that they had against the jews was that they were an independent race of people who wouldn't pay taxes to other governments. And the kingdoms would take a loss, it would be a total loss to everyone else. In other words, they figured everyone had to pay taxes and the jews did not want to. So this brought about a lot of opposition from the other nations. But YAHWEH says "HE was sore displeased with your fathers." Now this means those who had preceded the restoration of Jerusalem. They went down because of disobedience. Now the time had come to restore Jerusalem, which YAHWEH had promised. Now in restoring Jerusalem after 70 years, this was only typical because it was not a restoration that was lastingly established; it was restored to fulfill prophesy. Being typically restored after "70 years" means that Jerusalem would be restored after YAHWEH'S due period of time of being held down. This typical restoration had no real effect, it was restored on earth, for one thing, and naturally the Jerusalem that would bless mankind would be restored in the heavens. So this was typical; indicating that YAHWEH would restore Jerusalem. But naturally, when it is truly restored, it would have to be at the end of the 6,000 years.

Verse 3:

Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

Now this is the process that the sincere, devoted individuals who wants to receive YAHWEH'S blessing does. He turns to YAHWEH and he searchers for his GOD, he wants to know the will of his CREATOR, and what is right and what is wrong. What will be pleasing to HIM and what will be displeasing. He wants to correct himself. So we go to HIM, and HE blesses us. We don't just lay idly by and say 'well, if you want to save me, then *you* will do something about it.' No such thing. *You* don't know, *HE* knows. There is nothing that HE has to learn. You need the knowledge and if you want anything, you are going to have to strive to get it. You must put forth an effort. If you are hungry, you eat, if you are tired, you sleep, if you need exercise, you move around; if you want to learn, you study and search. You must do something. You are not a dead creature who has to be fed like some water plant, where everything comes to it. You are a free moral agent and the blessings are here, but you must make an effort to receive them.

Verse 4:

Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and [from] your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.

Now again, HE has to repeat; don't do like your fathers, you saw what happened to them. Centuries

of disobedience, centuries of misery and destruction. Don't be like them. Now I am restoring you don't follow the same course as your fathers. They had so much evidence of what disobedience brought about; complete disgrace, oppression, annihilation, being left in slavery. And all this after they were one of the most blessed people on the face of the earth. What a step downwards! It would have been another case if they were slaves all the time. But they were delivered, they were the most honorable of the earth. What nation did YAHWEH give HIS Laws to? Or deal with? And here they come down to being servants of slaves, of heathen. This was their own doings, though, because YAHWEH was displeased with them.

Verses 5 and 6:

**5 Your fathers, where [are] they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?**

**6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.**

In plain language, the thing has happened exactly as was prophesied. In other words, there was prophesied destruction, and it has happened to them. Even though the prophets were no longer there, the ones who had uttered these words from YAHWEH, they were living words and they accomplished exactly what YAHWEH had promised would happen to them.

Verse 7:

**Upon the four and twentieth day of the eleventh month, which [is] the month Sebat, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,**

Now this would be approximately February 24th or somewhere in there.

Verse 8:

**I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that [were] in the bottom; and behind him [were there] red horses, speckled, and white.**

Now we have a lot of confusion here in the translations. Every translation you pick up has something else. The *New English Bible*: "a bay horse, black and dappled white." The *Moffatt's* says: "chestnut, black, sorrel, and white." Another one says "a man on a red horse, red, speckled and white." The *Jerusalem* says: "a man" not on a horse "and the horses were red, sorrel, black and white." The *Septuagint* says: "a man on a red horse, red gray and p(blank space) and white" "p(blank space)" is speckled. Now the closest to the prophecy in Revelation concerning the four horsemen of the Apocalypse is the *Jerusalem Bible*, and the only color that does not agree altogether is the "sorrel" which should be gray. Which the *Septuagint* has it gray. Now these horses and their colors have a meaning. Now if we go to Revelation 6 we will see:

Verse 1:

**And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.**

The *Revised Standard* brings out "one of the four living creatures."

Verse 2:

And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Now YAHWEH says that the "white is the righteousness of the saints." (Rev. 19:8) The one that sat upon the white horse is Yahshua because "in righteousness he doth make war." (Rev. 19:11) So the white symbolizes a righteous conquering, a righteous war. In other words, it is not a warfare merely to conquer, to possess selfishly, but it is a conquering of wickedness and evil. So that those who love righteousness may be delivered and be able to perform what is just and right. This is what YAHWEH is going to do to HIS People, HE is going to free them. "If I make you free you shall be free indeed."

Verses 3 and 4:

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse [that was] red: and [power] was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

These things began with the "nation rising against nation." This is the time of world war one. And this is the time that the devil's organization was the first interfered with, and the truth was beginning to be spread upon the earth; and the lies and falsehoods, that the devil's organization was established on, began to show some real results. In other words, they began to have real problems. Problems like they never had before. It was the first time in history there was a world war. There was never before a war termed a *world* war. But this one they called a world war because there had been nothing like it before.

Verses 5 and 6:

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and [see] thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

The balances would indicate that there would be shortages, that everything would have to be measured; it actually pictures famine. "Not hurting the oil and the wine." Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit which is poured upon HIS People. David says "thou anointest my head with oil." So the oil depicts the Spirit of the Almighty GOD. The wine symbolizes the revealed truths, that which makes you happy. In other words, even though there was a shortage of food, the truth was still going to continue because the command was given here that the truth must not die out, the blessings from YAHWEH would continue, and the truth would continue. The truth was preserved through it all.

Verses 7 and 8:

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

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Now this is the closest that we get to the gray. A pale horse is a horse that is not white, it has no color of any kind. It is like a lack of color. There is nothing outstanding, no brilliance about him. Now the gray is a mixture of black and white. White is all colors mixed together. Black is no colors. Actually the mixture of the two just kills all the colors and you get a gray effect. This is one reason why gray goes with anything you wear because there is really no color; no blue; no orange, etc. It is just like a dead color. So this pale horse is the closest thing to the gray. "...and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." Now the amount, or you might say, the space that the first world war occupied, where the battles were really fought, took place on about one-fourth of the earth's surface. This was primarily in the christian countries. It was really a so-called war of those who claimed to be the closest to the Living GOD. And the atrocities that were performed at this time *outdid* the heathen. So these four horses symbolize warfare, a righteous war, actual warfare, starvation and death. Now with the coming of these events, being as there has been nothing like this on the face of the earth until that time, many people figured that the end of the world had arrived. Religion, for the first time, did bring out that "from the fulfillment of the signs it appears like the kingdom of GOD has arrived." The religionists actually stated this; they saw from the evidence that something was happening, that there were really signs in the heavens that this was not just man's doing but that great events were really taking place such as the world had never seen. And the warfare was really, really getting out of hand, And when they did stop fighting, nothing settled. All they did was rest for a brief period of time to recover, and they continued again in 1939, some 21 years later; they began all over again. And the atrocities of the second world war were truly such as the world had never seen. If you watch the "World at War." there are some horrible, horrible pictures there.

At any rate, I am going to read this from the *Jerusalem Bible* because it seems to have the more correct translation.

Verse 8:

I saw a vision during the night. It was this: A man was standing.

Now other translations have added "riding on a horse." But this is inconsistent. For example in the Authorized it brings out "I saw by night and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees." There is something wrong there. And in fact, they do bring out that this part was added where he was on the horse, then he was standing. So the way it should read is:

a man was standing among the deep rooted myrtles. Behind him were horses red, and sorrel.

Now the "deep rooted myrtle trees." The myrtle trees are leafy, flourish and protective immovable trees. Now these animals moved "behind him." Indicating that they had already made their move. In other words, these events, even though they had not been completed, most of the evidence had already been accomplished. In other words, it could have continued from, let's say, 1914 to 1917. By that time there was enough evidence of just what was happening. In fact it was in 1917 that the united states got in the "fray." So this means that these events had already happened. Now, in 1917, although it brings you to 1917 when Jerusalem is restored, yet we find in 1917 that the united states entered, then you had an influenza that killed between 20 to 30 million. They are not even sure. And this was *world wide*. Then there was the typhus in russia in 1917 that lasted till 1921; 2 and a half to 3 million died there from the typhus. This means that by 1917 you could have had all of these prophecies, all of this evidence, already there. You had the warfare, you had the shortages of food, you had the pestilence already beginning, and you had practically the whole world enmeshed in war.

Verses 9, 10, and 11:

9 Then said I, O my lord, what [are] these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will show thee what these [be].

10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These [are they] whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth.

11 And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.

To patrol the world is to examine it to see what it is doing. And it would not be proper for YAHWEH just to spy on them without giving them some evidence that something is happening. So we find that these four horsemen went through first, with a lot of evidence that something was radically wrong with human kind, that they better find their GOD and see what is really happening, and what is going to happen to them. And *after* this evidence was given, then those who patrolled the earth could really say how they reacted. Because *before* HE gave them any evidence there would have been no reason for them to change their views.

Now HE says "the whole world is at peace and rest." Now this sounds good, but this is not the peace that YAHWEH is looking for. But this means that even though all these things happened, all this evidence, it didn't move them, it didn't change them, they continued in the same way that they were going before the war. The same religionists who said it "appears like the time for the Kingdom has arrived." turned right around and rejected everything they said, and gave support to the League of Nations; another worldly organization. Not truly trying to find what YAHWEH'S pleasure was, what was right, they went and supported the same heathen nations who had been slaughtering one another. And this was certainly nothing new or a change in their course of conduct. I am just going to read verse 15 to show that YAHWEH is not pleased with them:

Verse 15:

And I am very sore displeased with the heathen [that are] at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

So in other words, this should have changed them. It did change the Bible Students. They came to a realization, and searched very thoroughly, although they expected the end to come in 1914. They found out later that the end of the devil's uninterrupted rule had come in 1914. They found this out only by searching. They didn't go ahead and join the league of nations. They also found out that Yahshua had come to His temple, they thought 1918; we say 1917, although there is a disagreement there. But about that time they realized that Yahshua had come to His temple. These were searching but the religionists were not.

Verse 12:

Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?

In other words, the seventy years. How long is it going to be before Jerusalem is restored? Now we know at this time that Jerusalem really began to be restored in the typical sense. It had already begun to be restored. So the cry was for the real Jerusalem. This is the prayer that he was asking. "How long would it be?" And the 70 years is just simply a picture of YAHWEH'S due period of time, or the complete period of time that it would lay dormant. Now Luke 21:24 has this to say concerning the jews:

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the gentiles until the time of the gentiles are fulfilled.

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Or "will be fulfilled." Now we know from our Chronology that the time of the gentiles ends when Jerusalem is restored. The time of the gentiles would have to end at the end of the sixth day when the seventh day began. The seventh day is the 1,000 year reign, the Kingdom. The 6,000 years would have to be completed before Jerusalem was restored. So we find according to the Chronology, that the 6,000 years ended in 1917 and this was the actual end of the gentile times, and the beginning of the Kingdom. The setting up of the New Jerusalem. So it would be "trodden down by the gentiles until the times of the gentiles would be fulfilled." So it was fulfilled in 1917, and then Jerusalem was restored. Now the 70 years pictured YAHWEH'S complete period of time, that it would not be restored until this period of time was over, and you notice that after the 70 years, even though Jerusalem was restored for a short period of time, we find that it went down again, and stayed down.

Verses 13 and 14:

13 And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me [with] good words [and] comfortable words.

14 So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.

Or with "a loving jealousy." In other words YAHWEH desired Jerusalem, you might say, with all of HIS Heart. HE desired Jerusalem and Zion to be restored. To be operating, and this would indicate that there would be no possible chance of YAHWEH ever forgetting Zion and Jerusalem. So there were comforting words that YAHWEH had not forgotten. HIS Purpose was to restore Jerusalem and Zion. And when YAHWEH says this it encourages us because we know that HE can not lie and HIS Organization will be restored. In fact it is *now* restored.

Verse 15:

And I am very sore displeased with the heathen [that are] at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

YAHWEH was displeased with Jerusalem and the heathen nations conquered them completely. And when they conquered Jerusalem they took full credit for doing this. It is not that YAHWEH removed HIS Protecting hand, they would say, but it is because of our might. It was the same thing with the remnant of the 144,000 who made up the balance of the New Jerusalem when they were on earth. YAHWEH was also a little displeased with them. What HE was displeased with was not only that there were members in there that didn't belong in there, but that the members whose hearts were right were going along with those whose hearts were not. They didn't fully understand that YAHWEH'S Nation must not compromise with the devil's organization. So YAHWEH permitted the heathen nations to over-power them. Now it wasn't a case of just giving them some trouble, they actually stopped their work, and burned their literature, and imprisoned the leaders. They just went all out, they didn't stop. So YAHWEH was a little displeased, but they took advantage of it and really came down on the remnant. So what HE brings out here, "they helped forward the affliction."

Verse 16:

Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

The *Revised Standard Version* brings this out clearer:

Therefore, thus says the LORD; I have returned to Jerusalem with compassion; my house shall be built in it, says the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched

out over Jerusalem.

HE brings out here at this point that HE has returned, after this period of time, to Jerusalem. HE has returned, and building HIS house means that HE has built HIS protective organization in Jerusalem, a protective organization for HIS People.

Verse 17:

**Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.**

I will read this in the *Jerusalem Bible* to try to get this as clear as possible:

**Make this proclamation too: YAHWEH Sabaoth says this: My cities are once more going to be very prosperous. YAHWEH will again take pity on Zion, again make Jerusalem his very own.**

Being very prosperous means that Jerusalem will be fully developed, and that the organization will be working, functioning. And HE is going to make Jerusalem HIS very own, this means that she has been fully accepted by HIM, the members have been "called, chosen and proven faithful." (Rev. 17) And it is not the case of using unchastised people where there is no guarantee that these people will ever make it. But the Jerusalem that HE has chosen were people like you have read about. Like the apostles Paul and Peter and so forth. Who were really willing to give their life for the truth. Now these people YAHWEH can trust, and there are the ones that make up the New Jerusalem.

(Study continues to Zechariah Two)