

ZECHARIAH

The Apocalypse of the Old Testament
Chapter 1, Part 2

Zechariah Chapter 1

¹³ And the LORD [YHVH] answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. ¹⁴ So the angel who spoke with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts [YHVH Tzava’ot]: “I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. ¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped—but with evil intent.”

Zechariah Chapter 1

- “The Lord” (YHVH or YHVH Tzava’ot) and the “Angel of the Lord,” and the angel who has been talking with him are distinctly separate persons here.
- The words He is speaking are “**good words**” and “**comforting words.**” Haggai’s mission was to shake up and shame the people to make YHVH their priority. Zechariah’s mission to is encourage and comfort the people who could not see His promises being fulfilled at that moment.
- Though they still have many years to wait, this is a comforting message that **YHVH remembers them.**

Zechariah Chapter 1

“I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal.”

- God is ***zealous*** for Jerusalem. Hebrew *qana*, literally means passionately possessive and protective. In other words, ***“don’t mess with my people.”*** Elohim is jealous and envious and passionate about Israel. ***Don’t NO one mess with Israel!***
- ***“with great zeal”*** – the word is the same root but *qinah*, which means He will act with the same passion toward anyone who does not treat Israel well. (Abrahamic Covenant!)



Zechariah Chapter 1

- God is also exceedingly angry with the nations. They were used by Him for Israel's discipline ("*they helped*"), but attitude was wrong.
- **They wanted Israel's destruction.** God intended Israel's chastisement for a limited period.
- One commentator likened this to *a parent disciplining their children when someone else intervenes...*



Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY: *“Consider the situation wherein a parent is disciplining a child and another relative is asked to affirm the need for discipline. Then without authorization the other relative interjects and starts pounding the child. The parent’s jealousy is stirred up, and then a quarrel ensues between him and the intermeddling relative who dared to mix himself up in the discipline, which was being handled effectively. This only ends with an increase in his child’s sufferings. This is God’s attitude to the oppressors of Israel.”*
(Woodhead)

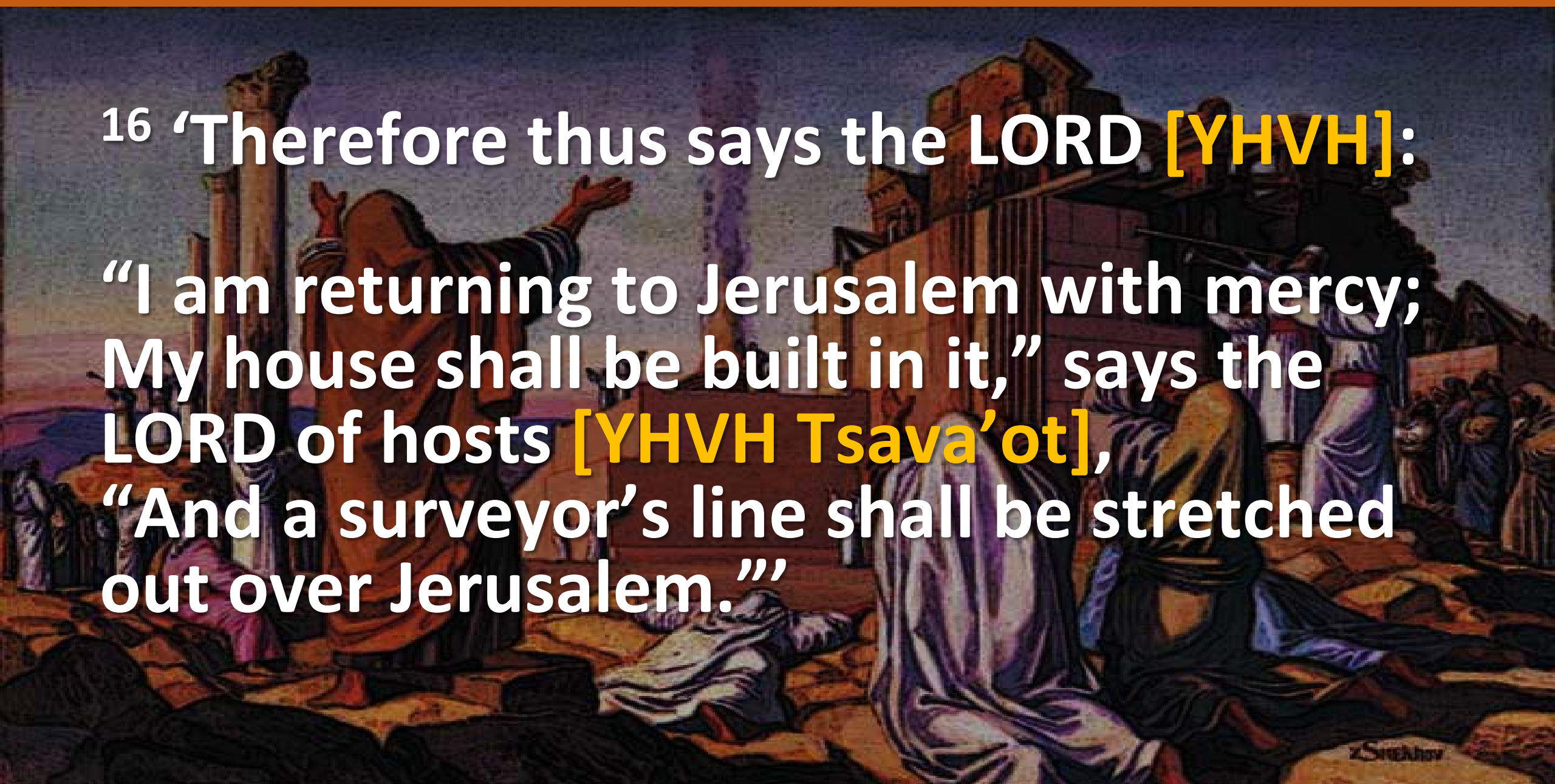
Zechariah Chapter 1

- Wonder what God thinks today of the nations who still seek Israel's destruction?



Zechariah Chapter 1

16 'Therefore thus says the LORD [YHVH]:
"I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy;
My house shall be built in it," says the
LORD of hosts [YHVH Tsava'ot],
"And a surveyor's line shall be stretched
out over Jerusalem."



Zechariah Chapter 1

- Now here are the “comforting words” the angel spoke of... *(these are promises of YHVH)*
- ***“I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy...”*** An indication that God’s presence will again grace the Temple, which will be rebuilt (in Jerusalem).
- Not only is He returning to Jerusalem, He is coming with mercy (compassion). The last time He was “there” it was in judgment. Now He will bring mercy. Definitely comforting words!

Zechariah Chapter 1

“My house shall be built in it...”

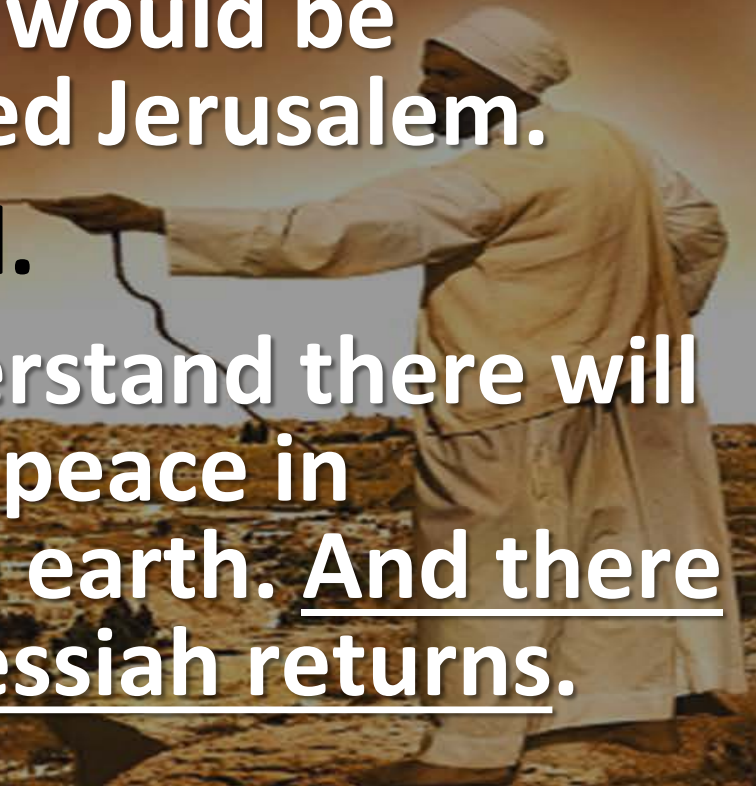
- Some interpret this as Messiah coming in person to the Temple, Elohim in the flesh. It may be only this visitation, but may indicate the temple reconstructed under Ezra would also be visited by God’s glory, the Shekinah.
- The “**2nd Temple**” (*being reconstructed at this time*) was only a partial fulfillment. The promise of a Temple (*which had never before been seen, Ezekiel 40-48*) will be seen in the future in Jerusalem. Many believe this is to be a “millennial temple.”

Zechariah Chapter 1

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“And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over

- The destruction by the Babylonians in 586 BC, (and later the Romans in 70 AD) had reduced Jerusalem to a pile of rubble. But the surveyor’s line would be “stretched out” to measure an enlarged Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem’s boundaries would expand.
- All the nations of the earth must understand there will never be peace on earth until there is peace in Jerusalem. That is the key to peace on earth. And there will be no peace in Jerusalem until Messiah returns.



Zechariah Chapter 1

- Jerusalem is key in the prophecies of the future:
 - ***“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.”*** (Psalm 132:13–14)
 - ***“Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: but chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.”*** (Psalm 78:67–68)
- God says that Jerusalem is the spot He loves.

Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY:

I must confess that I do not love Jerusalem as it is today. I must be very frank to say that it is not an attractive place to me. But God is going to make it a wonderful place some day. Although the judgment of God is upon Jerusalem even in this day, God still loves it.
(McGee)

Zechariah Chapter 1

¹⁶ ¹⁷ “Again proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts [YHVH Tzava’ot]:

“My cities shall again spread out through prosperity;
The Lord [YHVH] will again comfort Zion,
And will again choose Jerusalem.””

Shekinah Glory

Zechariah Chapter 1

- Elohim emphasizes His encouraging words by repeated them. “Again proclaim...” *“Did you hear that Israel? Let me proclaim it again...I remember you, and I will return to you!”*
- 1:17 ends Chapter 1 in Hebrew Bible (chapter 2 begins with next verses)
- That make sense as the **visions now turn to different key players**, the 4 horns and the 4 carpenters.

Zechariah Chapter 1

18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were four horns. **19** And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these?” So he answered me, “These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”



Zechariah Chapter 1

- The **horns**, the pride and symbol of strength of animals, are **used figuratively in scripture to symbolize power**. Here they represent the nations (kingdoms, powers) that have persecuted (scattered) Israel.
- These are Gentile powers or kingdoms that have dominated Israel, and will continue to do so, until the time of the end.
- We have seen these same powers in **Daniel**.
More on this later!

Zechariah Chapter 1

- ***“To lift up one’s horn”*** was a **sign of victory** (2 Samuel 2:1); “to lower one’s horn,” a sign of defeat (Job 16:15).
- Targum (Jewish rabbinical commentary) rendered “four horns” as “four kingdoms” here and in vv. 19 and 21. This concept is well understood (***“horns” are powers and kingdoms***).



Zechariah Chapter 1

A NOTE ABOUT THE NUMBER 4 in Zechariah

- The number 4 is used multiple times in Zechariah:
- 4 horses;
- 4 horns;
- 4 craftsmen;
- 4 chariots;
- 4 winds;
- 4 clauses (3:7);
- 4 words of comfort;
- 4 persons (6:14);
- 4-fold guilt (7:13);
- 4 feast days (8:19);
- 4 admonitions (8:9f);
- 4 pronouncements (8:12);
- 4-fold punishment (8:10);
- 4 cities (9:5,13,14,15);



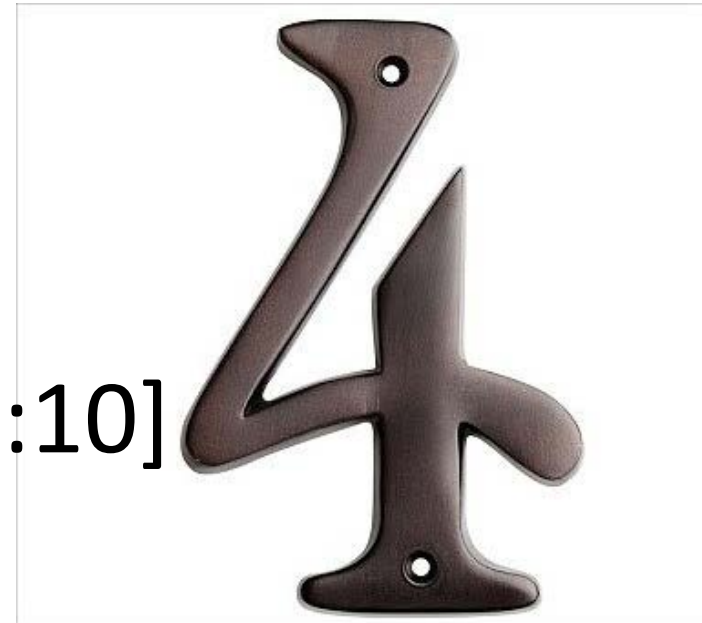
Zechariah Chapter 1

- 4 verbs (9:15);
- groups of 4 things (10:2);
- 4 lamentations (11:2f);
- 4 animals (14:5), etc.
- $4 \times 2 = 8$ visions
- The number 4 represents **the entire creation, especially His works associated with the earth.** It is used often in scripture:



Zechariah Chapter 1

- **4 cardinal directions N, S, E, W.** with 4 Angels keeping watch at the 4 corners of the earth, holding back the 4 winds of the world [Revelation 7:1]
- Israel had four divisions of the day associated with the daily Temple sacrifice (Dawn - 9AM; 9AM-Noon; Noon - 3PM; 3PM - Sunset)
- 4 lunar phases
- 4 seasons
- 4 rivers flowed out of Eden [Genesis 2:10]



Zechariah Chapter 1

- 4 letters form God's Divine Name YHVH
- 4 cherubim [Genesis 3:22-24; Ezekiel 1:10]
- In Ezekiel's vision of the heavenly throne/chariot the cherubim each had 4 faces and bodies with 4 wheels [Ezekiel 1:10-12]
- 4 women gave birth to the fathers of the 12 Tribes of Israel
- The tallit/outer cloak men were required to wear had 4 corners with 4 tassels [Numbers 15:38-39]



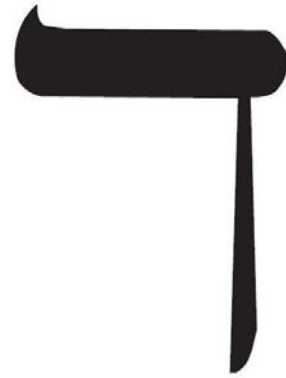
Zechariah Chapter 1

- 4 heavenly creatures around God's throne.
[Revelation 4:6-8]
- Israelite camp divided into 4 parts around the
Tabernacle [Numbers 2:1-34]
- The ancients considered there to be 4 elements:
earth, fire, air and water
- Bible has four-fold division of mankind: lands,
tongues, families and nations [Revelation 13:7]
- ***And more...!***



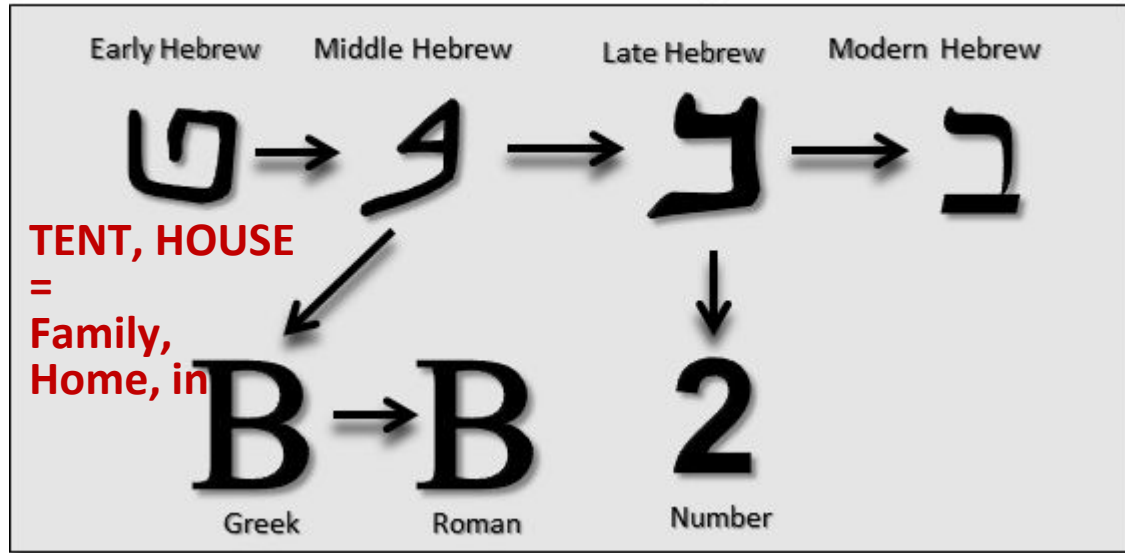
Zechariah Chapter 1

- The number 4 is assigned to the 4th letter in the Hebrew alphabet, the “Daleth” (or Dalet)
- Aleph, Beit, Gimmel, Daleth...
- Might be a good time for a short lesson in Hebrew thinking...

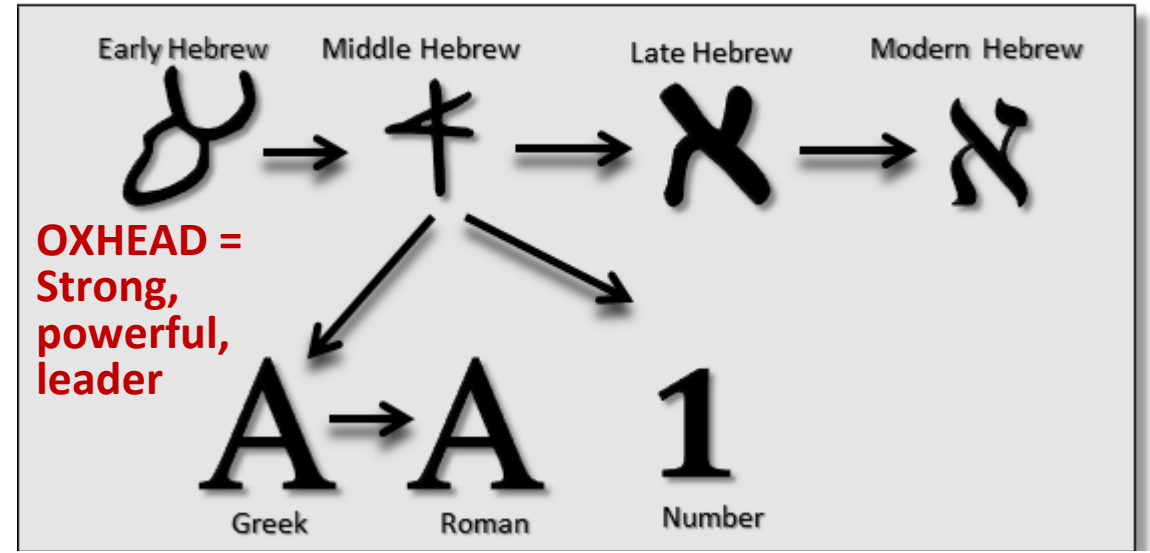


Zechariah Chapter 1

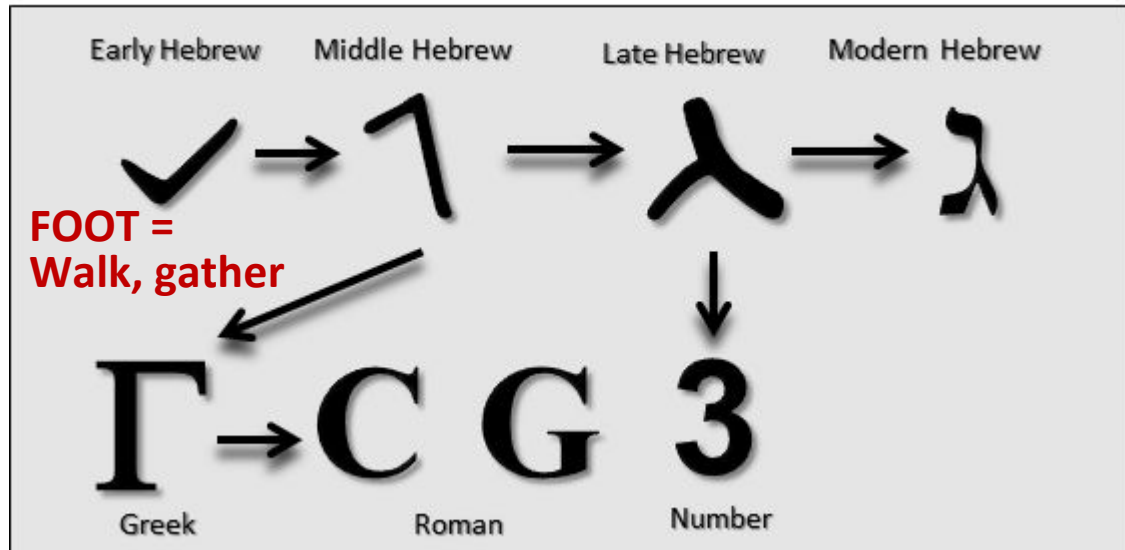
The Letter Beyt



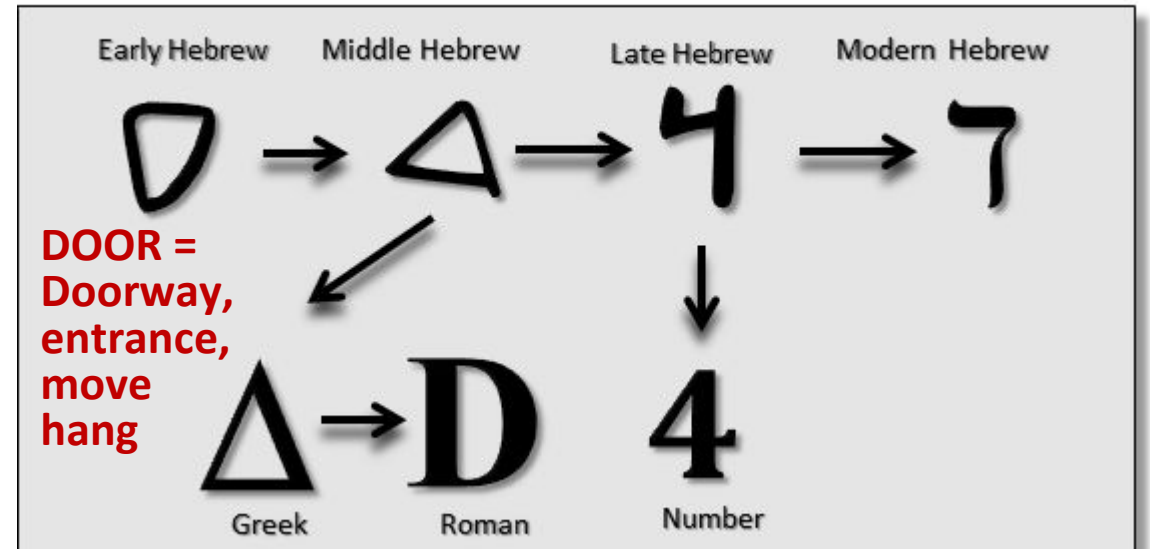
The Letter Aleph



The Letter Gimel



The Letter Dalet



Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY: *“The Daleth [also dalet] consists of two lines, one from the right to the left on the top and the other straight down on the right side. The inner side is hollow and empty like our physical existence. Physical existence is only a thing or an affair. The outer side of the Daleth is complete, this tells us that the Daleth appears like an open door and is an open door to spirituality. In other words the hollow empty inner side is the physical existence that provides a hiding place for the spiritual. The Daleth is then a door or portal to the spiritual world.*



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COMMENTARY: ...

The word Daleth is related to the word daluth which means poverty or leanness. The physical is poor and deficient for it can receive but it cannot give. Therefore in and of itself the physical existence cannot resemble God. Only when the physical existence is coupled with the Gimmel, lovingkindness and mercy, can the door open and the connection be made with the Divine. ...

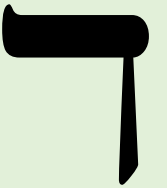


Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY: ...

In other words, the Daleth represents a doorway that we pass through from this physical world which has its spiritual limitations, yet hidden in it is the spiritual which we enter when we pass through the Daleth.

The Daleth [also] represents knowledge, the doorway to the spiritual opens up knowledge of the spiritual world to us....We are often so hurried in our lives and so focus on the material that we miss out on the many ordinary doorways to the spiritual world which offer us a knowledge of God.



Zechariah Chapter 1



COMMENTARY: ...

We can interpret a little bird dancing and singing on our porch as a distraction which may leave a mess that we must clean up, or we can pause and pass through the Daleth and realize that here is a small part of the creation of God presenting to us beauty, peace and serenity. We must pause in our busy lives to anticipate the many little Daleths or doorways that God will open to share with us the things of the spirit, fulfill what is lacking or deficient in the physical world, to take the poverty of this physical world and fill it with the blessings of God's spirit.” (Chaim Bentorah in “Beyond the Hebrew Lexicon”)

Zechariah Chapter 1

- Beautiful, huh? These understandings of the Hebrew letter and word meanings were **known at the time this book was written**.
- It is likely use of so many 4's in Zechariah was to turn the heart of the reader to the “beneath the surface” meaning of the book.
- The history of the Jews is presented in a grand timeline from that moment to beyond where we are now, but there is far more at work here.
- As the letter Daleth indicates, **4 is a doorway to the spiritual** – to knowledge of God.

Zechariah Chapter 1

- Use of the number 4 in scripture always relates somehow to the creation, especially the earth, and man's history.
- Perhaps the use of 4 here is to remind us that **the earth is merely the shallow** (poverty stricken!) **material world that is incomplete on its own**.
- But there is a doorway to knowing and understanding the completing power of the spiritual – God Himself – and that earth history is not coincidental or accidental. It is planned out by the Most High God in fine detail.

Zechariah Chapter 1

- ***We just need to open the many doors available to us to begin the journey of learning the spiritual, the eternal side of us and our God.***
- More generally, the “4” could also simply signify the four cardinal directions of the compass, and Israel’s enemies will be *from all sides in complete opposition* to her until the end of days.
- The opposition to Israel was not just here and there, but continuous throughout history until the end. *It is still the times of the Gentiles...*

Zechariah Chapter 1

Back to the 4 horns...

- These are the scatterers who have plagued Israel. Most identify them with the four great Gentile powers in Daniel (2, 7 and 8), marking the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).
- These are **BABYLON, PERSIA, GREECE, ROME**, powers referenced often in the dreams and visions concerning the history of both Gentiles and Jews throughout biblical, as well as secular, history to the end of time.
- We are **reminded of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2** of the multi-metals statue...

Zechariah Chapter 1

Nebuchadnezzar's Statue

Daniel 2

Rock
Jesus Christ

Gold
Babylonian
Empire

Silver
Medo-Persian
Empire

Bronze
Greek Empire

Iron
Roman Empire

Iron and Clay
Modern powers



Zechariah Chapter 1

Four Beasts in Daniel 7



1

- Like a Lion
- With eagle's wings
- Wings plucked later
- Lifted up from earth
- Man's heart given



2

- Like a Bear
- Raised up on its side
- Had 3 ribs in its mouth
- Was told to arise and devour much flesh



3

- Like a Leopard
- With 4 fowl's wings
- Had 4 heads
- Given dominion



4

- Exceedingly dreadful, terrible beast
- Iron teeth, brass nails
- Had 10 horns
- A little horn, which plucked 3 horns

Zechariah Chapter 1

“These are the horns that have scattered...”

- The verb is past tense here, even though so far some of the Gentile powers (horns) who scattered Israel *have not yet appeared on the timeline* (Greece, Rome, etc.) when this was written.
- However, the ***“God who inhabits eternity, who sees the end from the beginning”*** (Isaiah 57) is speaking. And this prophetic plan for Gentile domination of Israel *is complete*, both past and future.

Zechariah Chapter 1

- In God's eyes, **it is already done**. These "horns" have indeed scattered Israel already, as the historical timeline caught up to His prophetic vision!
- Besides the major Gentile powers, Israel was also surrounded by other enemies, but these were also under dominion of Gentiles as well... (*Gentile powers were considered "world empires"*)
- **Samaritans** on the north;
- **Ammonites** to the east;
- **Edomites** to the south; and
- **Philistines, Tyrians** west

Sounds familiar...Israel is STILL surrounded by enemies on all sides!

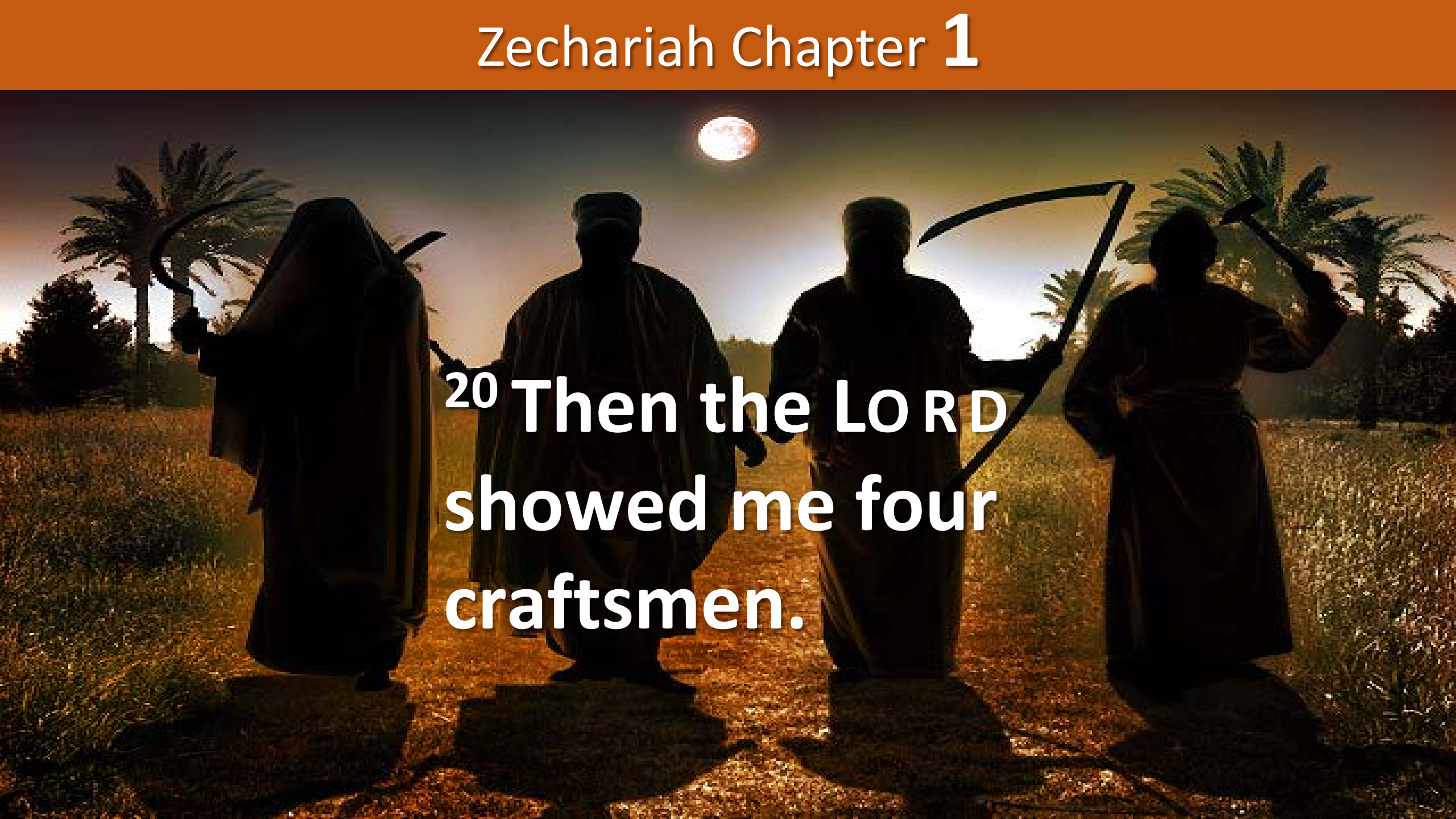
Zechariah Chapter 1

- Because Israel did indeed have enemies on all four sides, some commentators like to say that the 4 horns don't represent specific powers, but rather the combined powers against Israel from the 4 corners of the earth, at any time.
- This has some merit, but there are **too many other references to the horns of Gentile power being Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome** to ignore this obvious tie-in which fits smoothly with other prophecies about these powers.

Zechariah Chapter 1

- It is also perfectly acceptable to use both ideas that not only are the 4 horns Gentile world powers, but they are also representative of all Israel's enemies, which will also one day be destroyed.

Zechariah Chapter 1

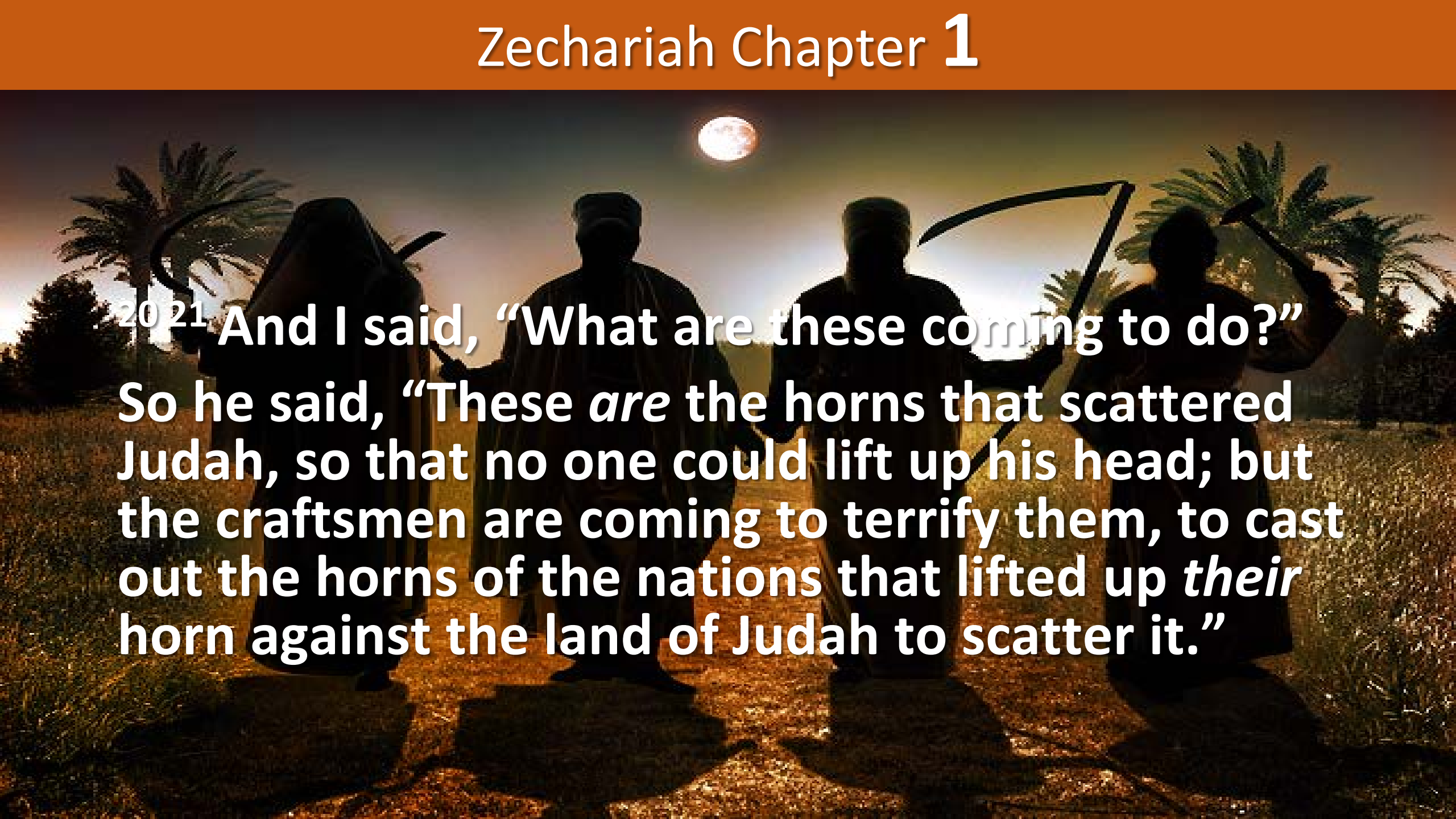
A dramatic scene featuring four figures in dark, flowing robes standing in a field at night. The figures are silhouetted against a bright, glowing orb in the sky, which appears to be the moon. The landscape is dark with some palm trees visible in the background. The figures are holding various tools: the first on the left holds a scythe, the second holds a staff or tool, the third holds a large curved blade, and the fourth holds a hammer. The overall mood is mysterious and biblical.

**20 Then the LORD
showed me four
craftsmen.**

Zechariah Chapter 1

- First 4 horns (powers) now 4 “craftsmen.”
- “Craftsmen” is **chârâsh** (*khaw-rawsh*) which literally means a fabricator of many material. This could be a worker in wood, stone, metal, or whatever. An artisan (“smith” etc.). **Also word for “carpenter.”**
- Keep in mind a craftsman can also destroy something, and quite often must do so before creating something (i.e., trees have to be felled, etc.)
- We will see shortly that our English word “**carpenter**” best describes these guys!

Zechariah Chapter 1

The background image shows four silhouetted figures standing in a field at sunset. From left to right: a figure in a hooded cloak holding a sword, a figure in a cap holding a staff, a figure holding a scythe, and a figure holding a hammer. The sun is a bright orange orb in the sky, and palm trees are visible in the background. The text is overlaid in white on the lower half of the image.

2021 And I said, “What are these coming to do?”
So he said, “These *are* the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming to terrify them, to cast out the horns of the nations that lifted up *their* horn against the land of Judah to scatter it.”

Zechariah Chapter 1

- Notice Zechariah didn't ask about their identity, only their function.
- The wording in Hebrew indicates what they were doing was already in progress. And, the “lifting up” of horns also shows that the persecution of the Jews has been **continuous, not sporadic**.
- These carpenters are to strike terror into the nations who have persecuted and scattered God's people, and to overthrow Israel's enemies.

Zechariah Chapter 1

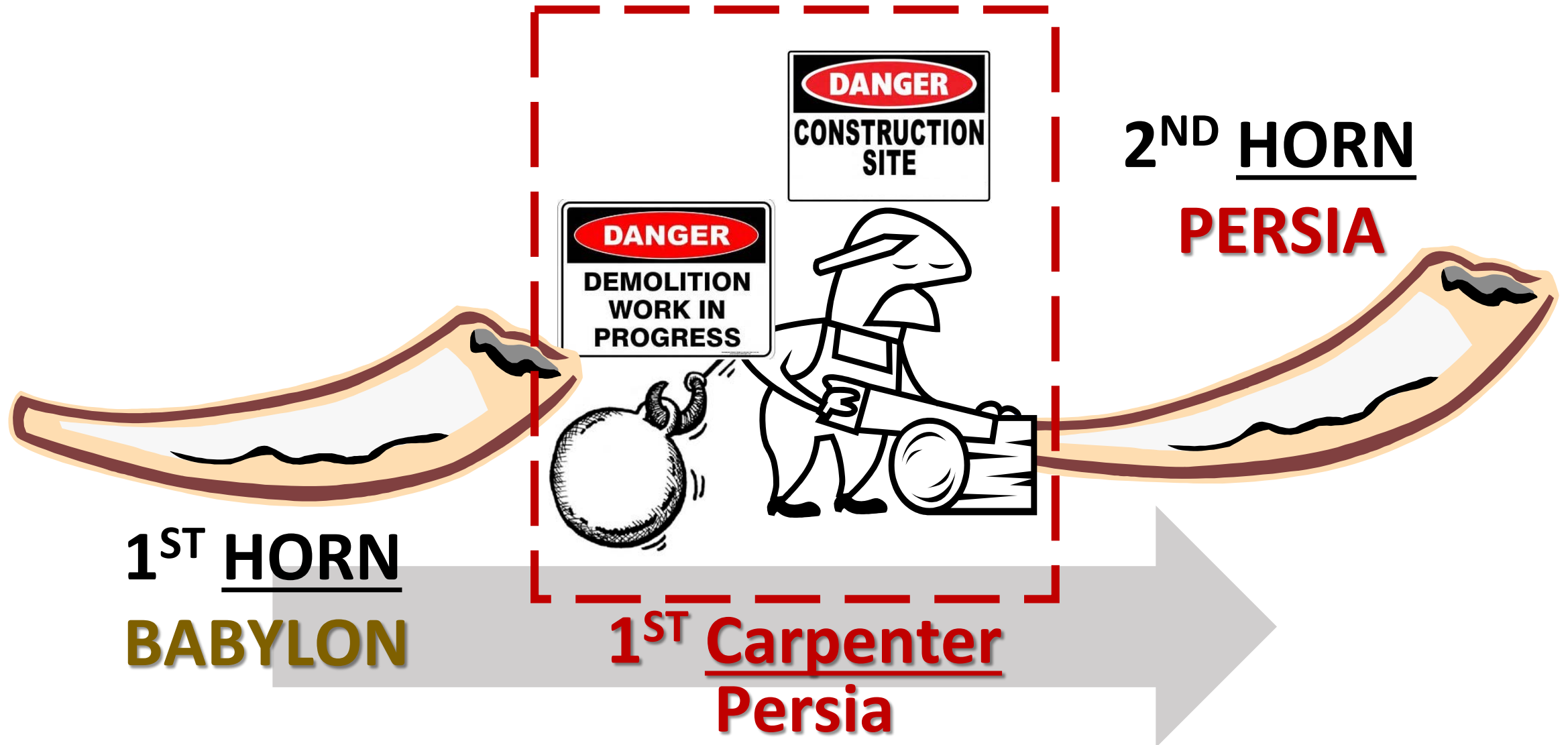
- Each carpenter is the **instrument of God to break the horns** to pieces.
- **For every horn, God has a carpenter to destroy it.**
- The horns are the successive empires in Daniel 2 and 7, and each carpenter takes down or destroys the “horn” before it. For example, the 1st carpenter destroys the 1st horn. The 2nd carpenter the 2nd horn, etc. Until the 4th and final “carpenter” destroys the 4th and final world empire, leaving the 4th carpenter standing alone, all other horns and carpenters are destroyed.

Zechariah Chapter 1

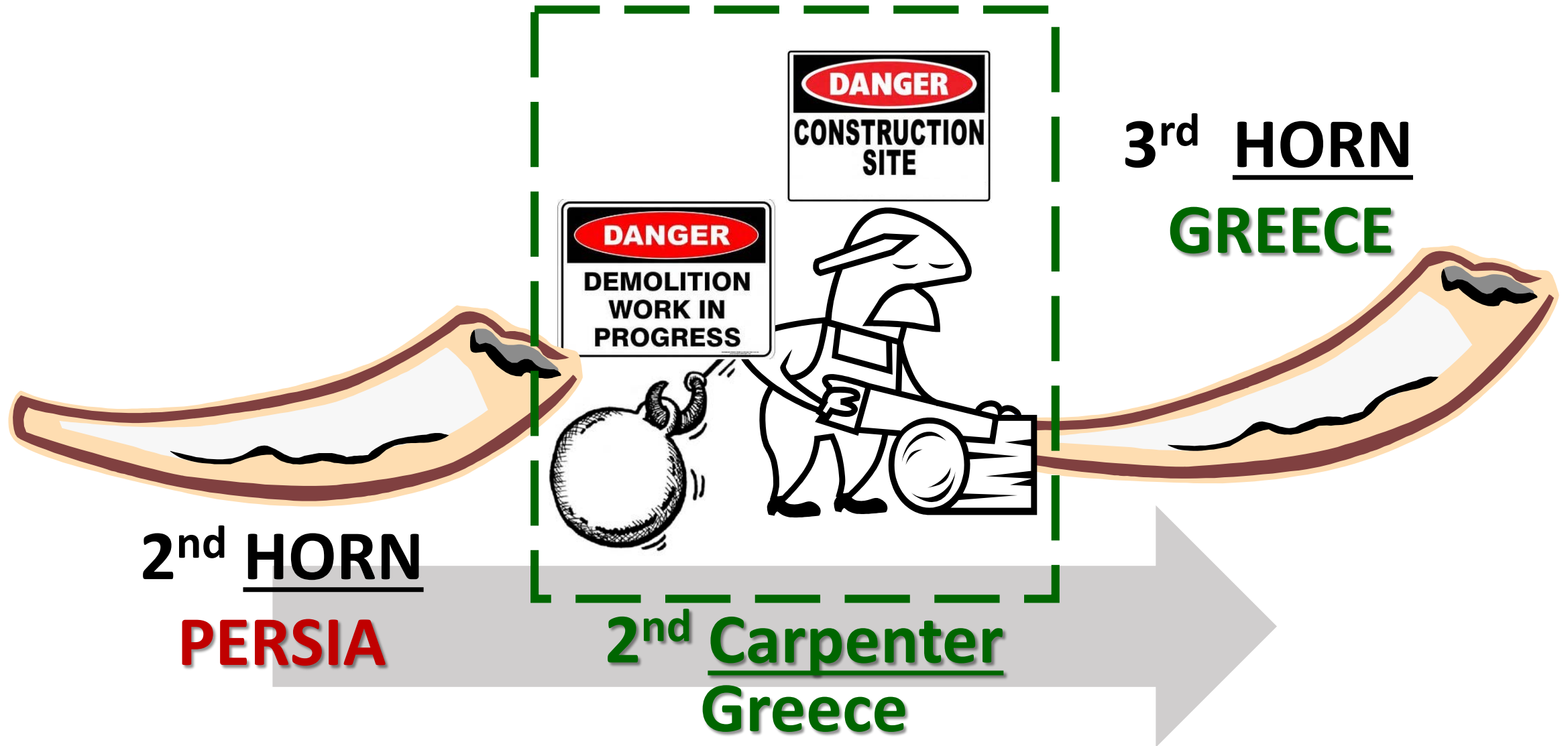
- Each carpenter builds up his own “horn” (power) that will destroy the one before it.
- The “ultimate carpenter” is left alone in power, with no other carpenter to destroy Him and His Kingdom.
- ***And can you guess who that 4th carpenter is?***

**Melech haOlam, the King of the Universe,
Yeshua, who is building a Kingdom of
Priests, a Kingdom without end!**

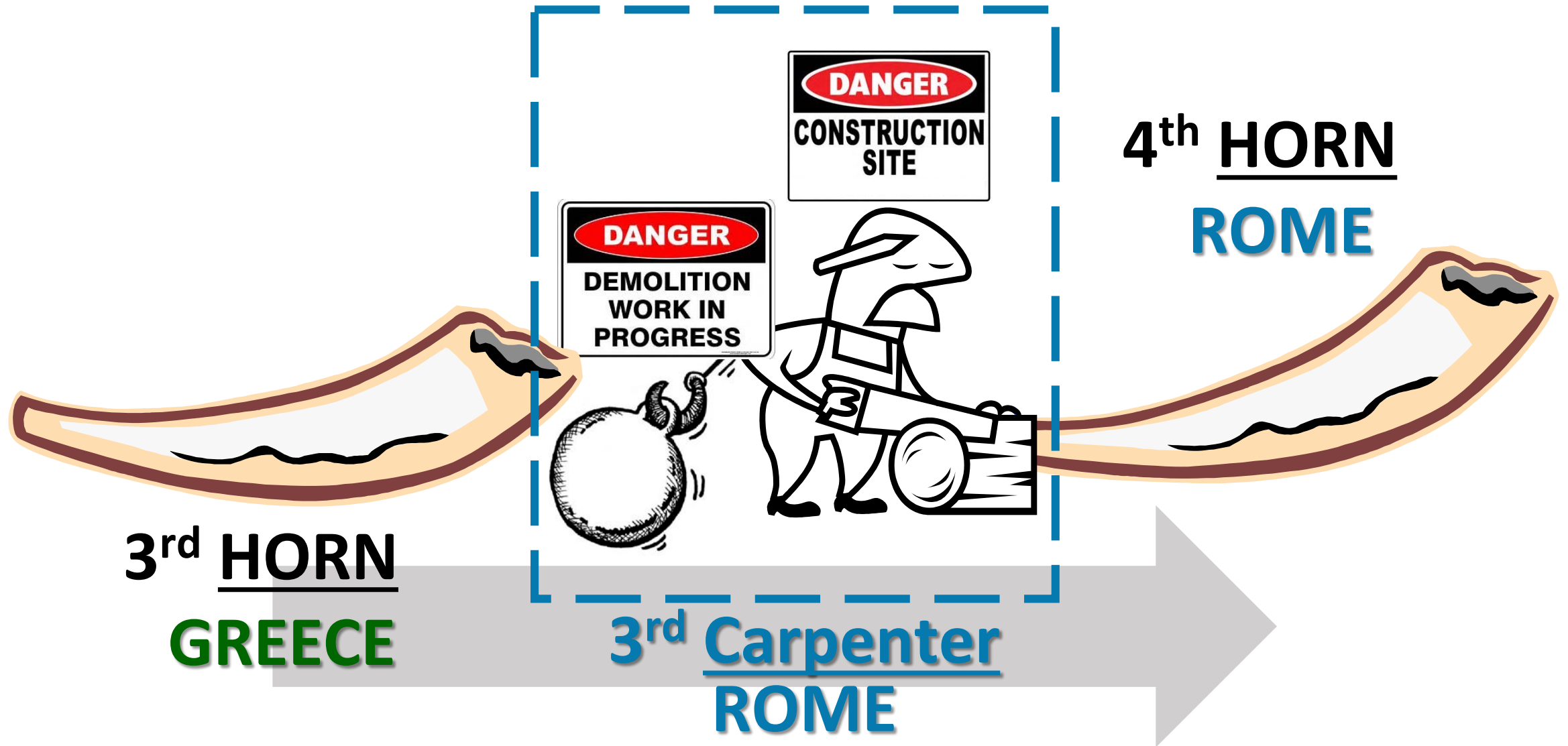
Zechariah Chapter 1



Zechariah Chapter 1

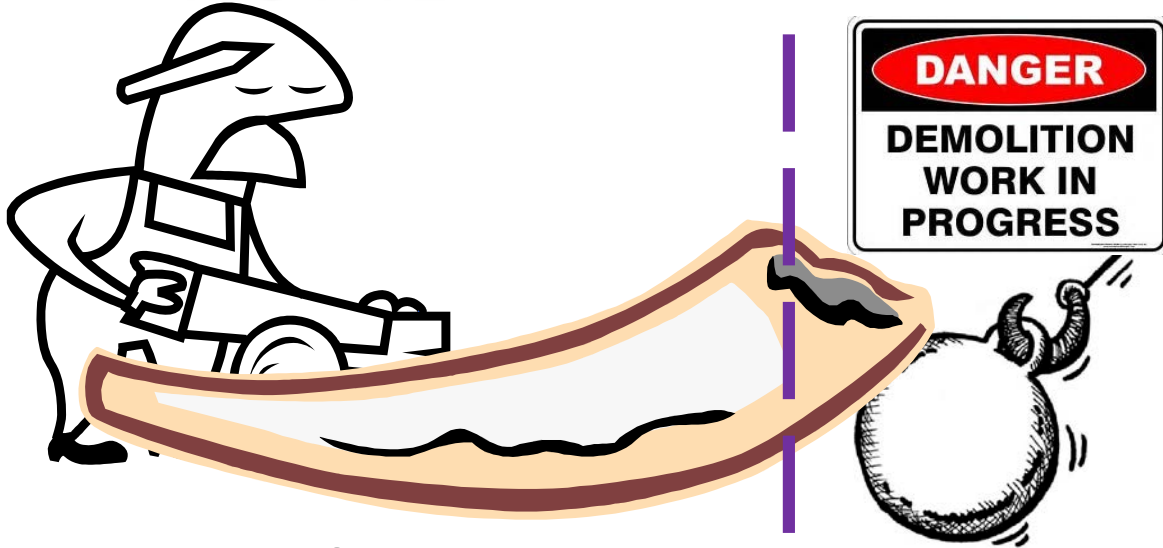


Zechariah Chapter 1



Zechariah Chapter 1

3rd Carpenter
ROME

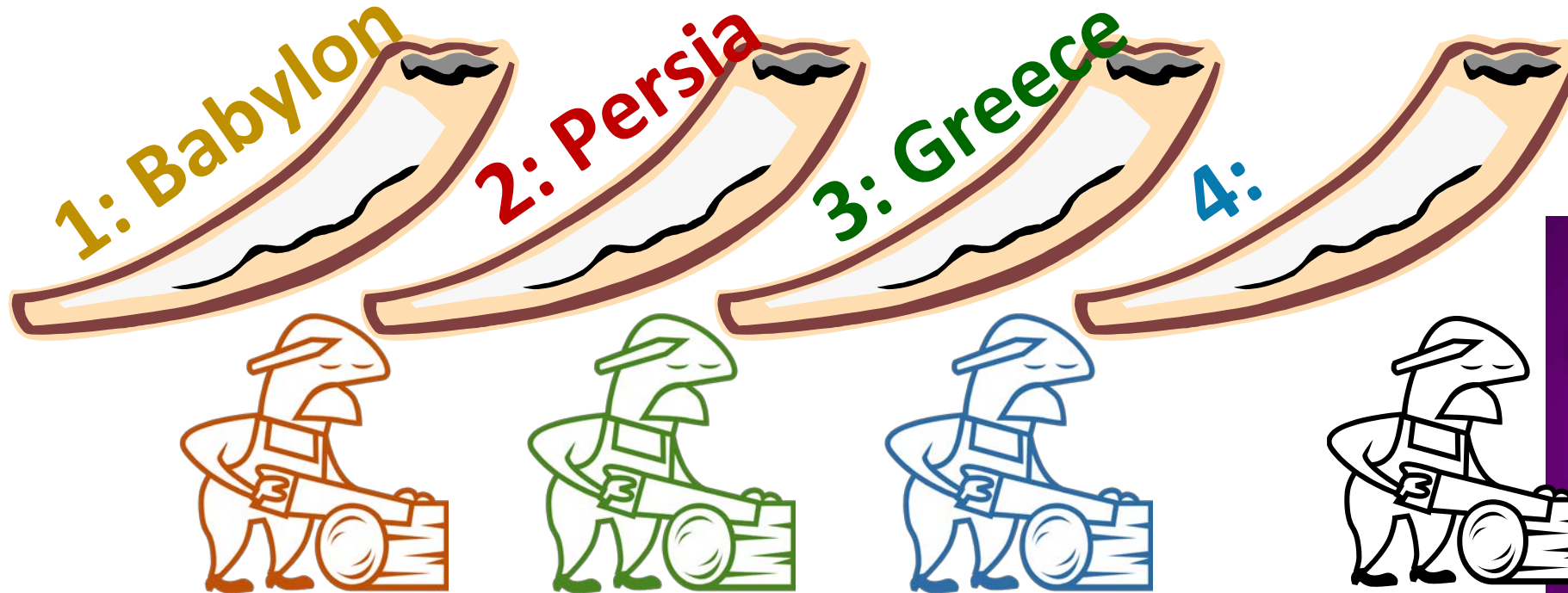


4th HORN
ROME

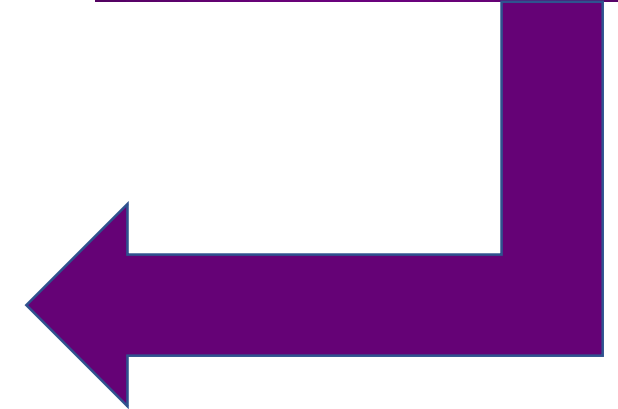


4th Carpenter
YESHUA!

Zechariah Chapter 1



The 4th Carpenter is Melech Yeshua (King Jesus!), and His “horn” will be the Millennial Kingdom, and all eternity!



Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY: *In line with Daniel's great prophecies concerning "the times of the Gentiles" (Dan. 2:31–45; 7:2–13) three of the horns in turn and under the punitive hand of God become smiths [carpenters], while the fourth and last horn is cast down by the world-wide kingdom set up by the returning Yeshua, coming to dash to pieces His enemies who are at the same time His peoples' enemies (Ps. 2:1–12). Thus the first horn (Babylon) is cast down by Medo-Persia, the second horn. ...*

Zechariah Chapter 1

COMMENTARY: ...*The second horn (Medo-Persia), accordingly, in turn becomes the first smith. The second horn (Medo-Persia) is cast down by the third horn, and thus becomes the second smith. The third horn (Macedonian Greece), is in turn cast down by the fourth horn (Rome), which thus becomes the third smith. The fourth horn (Rome), the most dreadful of all, does not become a smith but in its revived ten-kingdom form of the last days is destroyed by the fourth smith, the millennial kingdom set up by the returning “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16). (Unger)*

Zechariah Chapter 1

- Rome (the 4th horn) was not destroyed by an outside power. In fact, according to prophecy, the Roman Empire will come back together again.
- It never did die—it just *fell apart because of the internal corruption of the kingdom*. There is one who is coming, the final world ruler (Antichrist), who will restore the Roman Empire.
- ***He will be a world dictator***. Who is going to put him down? **Yeshua (the 4th carpenter) when He returns to the earth.**

Zechariah Chapter 1

- When Yeshua came to earth the first time, His title was the Carpenter of Nazareth. This carpenter is coming again to put down this world dictator and establish His Kingdom here upon this earth with Jerusalem as its center.
- **God is sovereign over the nations.** He tells us that He is the one who raises up kings and takes them down (Daniel 2). He also raises up horns and carpenters and takes them down until only **ONE Carpenter is left, whose kingdom will never end.**

Zechariah Chapter 1

- God is not through with the nation Israel; and when God says “Israel and Judah and Jerusalem,” He means exactly those geographic locations.
- It makes no difference what earthly nation we belong to. We are looking for a “... *city ...whose builder and maker is God.*” (Hebrews 11:10)
- The 4th and final carpenter will build this city and this Kingdom.

Zechariah Chapter 1



1:7-17

The Rider Among the
Myrtle Trees

- Call to **Repentance**, visions **begin**
- Rider on red horse among the Myrtle Trees and Re-Con Angels
- Promised **destruction of Israel's enemies** and glory to be returned to Jerusalem, *but it's not happening yet.*
- God (Yeshua) is **always watching over Israel**. He is jealous over Israel.

Zechariah Chapter 1

1:18-19

The Four Horns

- 4 Horns = 4 world powers. **Gentile domination,** Jews scattered. World powers will continue to dominate and scatter Israel.

Zechariah Chapter 1

- **4 Craftsmen**
(Carpenters) = each world power will destroy the one before it.
- Until **final and ultimate world power** (!!)...
another carpenter!



1:20-21

The Four Carpenters