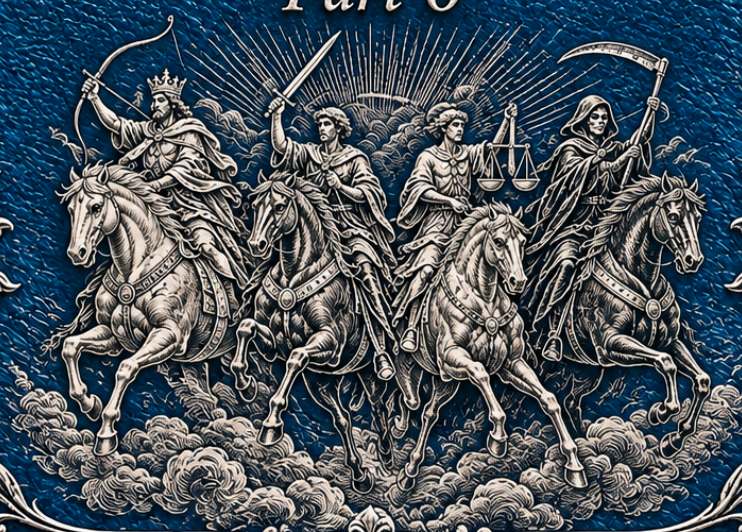
God's Perfect Timing

Studies in the Book of Zechariah
Part 6



"Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double."

— Zechariah 9:12

God has a lot to say in the bible about His timing. It is apparently very important for us to grasp. As we will see, trusting God in His timing often requires waiting. But the Lord desires to encourage us in the waiting. The waiting is not fruitless. The time before the promise is fulfilled is not a waste if time.

Isaiah 40:31

> But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint

Why does this work?

2 Peter 3:9

> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

What benefit do we see here in God's apparent delay?

Revelation 22:7 KJV

> Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Definition of the Greek word used for "quickly" [5035 (taxý) does not mean "immediately" or necessarily "in a very short time" but rather "without any delay."]

It could be translated, "Behold, I come without delay. Blessed is he that Keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book".

Without delay could mean 2 things: 1) He's right on time 2) whenever He comes, He will come suddenly.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-10

Take a minute to consider the predicament of the people of Israel in Zechariah's day. What promises were given to the people of Israel?

What happened over the past 1500 years that would make the people of Zechariah's day question those promises?

(The people's own willingness to forsake the covenant, the constant abuse by oppressive nations)

Read the vision in Zechariah 1:8-13

What are the horsemen (or horses) sent to do?

(Patrol)

What do they discover in their patrol of the earth?

(The earth is at rest)

Why does the angel find this disappointing?

What have the nations of the earth done to Israel?

What is the question the angel asks in verse 12?

Have you ever seen injustice in the world and wanted to ask God the same question?

What does God do in response in verse 13?

God speaks gracious and comforting words, assuring all of Heaven and all of Israel that He has it all under control. God is patient. But the time will come when God will build His house and the nations be punished.

The angel of the Lord gives the following message to Zechariah.

Read vs 14-17

Zechariah 6:1-8

What is happening?

Though God is patient, does that mean He is not angry with the wicked nations?

What does vs 8 mean? How did the chariots that went north put God's Spirit at rest?

(Babylon was to the north. God used Media-Persia to punish Babylon)

In Revelation 5, (which happens in the future) Heaven, again, is anxious for God to move on behalf of God's people. Then Jesus shows up to break the seals off of a scroll - to which Heaven rejoices. Jesusis the only one in Heaven or Earth or under the Earth found worthy to open the scroll. He does so. And the very action is God moving on behalf of His people.

Read Revelation 6:1-8

Did God use righteous servants to punish Babylon the last time He sent out His horses?

Are these 4 horsemen of the apocalypse something that might bring rest to God's Spirit?

Why?

Is it something we should rejoice over?

Look at heaven's response to the unfolding of these events in Revelation 5:9-14

Is this punishment intended for us or the nations?

When Israel looked back at the plagues of Egypt, do you think they felt harassed by God or delivered and loved by God?

Whether we'll be here or not during the unfolding of Revelation 6 is irrelevant since we know we're not a part of the nations. Our

hope is not in economics or politics but in Jesusand our promised future with Him.

The point is: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

What does this tell us about how we should deal with lesser inconveniences in our lives?

Read Zechariah 9:9-13

Was vs 9 future for them?

Do you think it seemed hard to believe?

When does vs 10 happen?

Does that seem hard to believe?

What is a significance of putting verses 9 and 10 together?

It reminds me of Isaiah 9:5-6

5
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

6
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Read Zechariah 14:9

2 Corinthians 4:18 says

> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

What is the benefit of fixing our eyes on the unseen truth of Zechariah 14:9?

How does that help us with the waiting?