



## God's Word of Grace and Comfort for Those Who Build

Zechariah 1:7-21

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### Words of Grace and Comfort

Beginning at chapter 1 verse 7, the visions of Zechariah begin. There are 8 intense visions that come one right after another. To understand the visions, and to hear what God is saying to each of us through them, we must remember that each of these visions is God's Word of promise for those who have answered God's call to build! This is the overall theme of the Book of Zechariah.

The key to the first vision of Zechariah is found in verse 13: "And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words."

Zechariah began his ministry with a straightforward word of challenge: "return to me says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you." (Zechariah 1:3). But now, after the word of challenge, comes a message of grace and comfort! God knows exactly what we need. He knows that we need both challenge and encouragement as we answer the call to believe in Christ and to build with and for Christ. So listen carefully! Notice that the words of comfort and grace from the first vision continue right into the second vision. The second vision is just four verses long, at the end of chapter one. It is so powerful!

The key to the second vision is found in verse 20: "Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen."

The second vision reveals "God's way" of doing His work in our world. His way is to build and He is going to build through the "craftsmen". The craftsmen are the common workers. They do not seem impressive or powerful, especially in the face of the "four horns" that terrorize the world! These horns stand for the most powerful forces of evil you can imagine. So what can these common, humble, workers do in the face of that? The answer is the essence of the message of Zechariah. God is going to build His kingdom. God is going to use His people to do it – all those who answer the call to build. This is God's way in our fallen world. Those who answer God's Call to build find that they are not working on their own. God Himself is their strength and their victory. Jesus WILL build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it! He will build through His humble servants who answer His call to believe in Christ and build for Christ. God's way is to build through YOU! Take that word of promise as God's word for your life, right now, and live each day in faith. And step forward and start to build!

Here are four themes from God's gracious, comforting word in Zechariah 1:7-21:

God's Work – God is at work even when you can't see it (1:7-10)

God's Passion – God's work flows right from the center of God's heart (1:11-15)

God's Promise – God is absolutely going to fulfill His promise to build (1:16-17)

God's Way – God uses YOU to build (1:18-21)