

September 18 Answers

- 1) The eight night visions of Zechariah. The visions came five months to the day after work resumed on the temple, and God gave them to Zechariah so he could **encourage** the people to persevere in their obedience. The people could see the difficulties they faced, but they couldn't see what God was doing behind the scenes. In each vision, God pulled back the curtains of the physical world and revealed how He was working on their behalf. In the first vision, the people could see their own distress while the empire that oppressed them was at peace. God revealed that His angel was watching over them, and that He was "**jealous**" for their peace and safety. God assured them that His temple would be rebuilt and that Jerusalem would again "**overflow** with prosperity." In the second vision, the people could see the enemy that had devastated their homeland. God revealed that He was raising up "four **craftsmen**" that would cast down the nations who had destroyed Judah. In the third vision, the people could see the broken walls of Jerusalem and the ruins that once housed so many people. God revealed that one day Jerusalem would be so filled with people that it would be like a **village** without walls, and that He would be a "wall of **fire** all around." In the fourth vision, the people could see the sinfulness that tainted themselves and their spiritual leaders. God revealed that the LORD rebuked **Satan**, their accuser, and took away their iniquity. God promised that one day "my servant the **Branch**" would come—Jesus, the Messiah. In that day they would enjoy both righteousness and prosperity under His rule. In the fifth vision, the people could see the burden and responsibility of the great task God had given them. God revealed that His Spirit was actively working to help them: "Not by **might**, nor by **power**, but by my Spirit" (Zech 4:6). God's divine blessing was on Zerubbabel, and God would help the remnant complete their task: "For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel" (Zech 4:10). In the sixth vision, the people could see the lawbreakers who surrounded them. God revealed that His **curse** was being sent out to consume those who disobeyed the law. In the seventh vision, the people could see the evil that filled the land. God revealed that He would remove that wickedness to **Babylon** where it would one day be destroyed. In the eighth and last vision, the people could see how weak and susceptible to danger they were. God revealed that His **chariots** were out on patrol, watching over them in all directions.