

It is necessary to adopt some method of treating visions. I seek to use a method that separates the various elements in the vision, determines what they represent on the basis of comparative studies (where possible), indicates what actions are significant and what is the total teaching of the vision. It gets a bit involved and sometimes even a little monotonous but it does give us some clarified results that are helpful.

Students sometimes have emotional blocks on looking for biblical symbols. They have been "burned" by overly fanciful systems that made the Bible more of a magic book than an easily understood redemptive message. But abuse of anything meaningful should not result in disuse. The symbols are teaching media and the better they, and other particulars are understood, the fuller is our understanding of the biblical message.

B. The Particular Visions

1. **The Man in the Myrtle Trees** 1:7-17

a. **Precise:** This vision teaches that God had visited, quieted, and finished his punitive work on His people in Babylon. There is no reason to delay the work on the temple.

b. **The Persons in the vision:**

- (1) a man among the myrtle trees on a red horse (v. 8)
- (2) the prophet Zechariah (v. 9)
- (3) one addressed as "lord" in v. 9...may be the man on the horse in 8.
- (4) a speaking angel, v. 7, 9
- (5) an impersonal group identified with the pronoun "these" in vs 9-10. Cf. v. 8
- (6) the angel of Jehovah, (v. 11). Note 12.
- (7) the voice of Jehovah, Himself (word) indicating the presence of the Lord.

Most likely the man and angel (vs. 11-12) and the party addressed as Adonai are the same.

The action therefore is between the prophet and the reporting rider on the red horse and the Lord himself with a side report from those that are nearby, the agents on God on missions among men.