

c. The symbolic images in the vision:

(1) The red horse and the other horses...the horse is the means of military movement. The red horse probably is suggestive of the aftermath of war. The other horses suggest things associated with it. But they are not fighting, the fighting is over. They are standing and reporting. The suggested meaning is that the war is over, the enemies are quieted, the battles are done

(2) The myrtle trees...following a pattern from Esther 2:7, they are most likely a symbol for the Jews. Not a lot to go on but observe the name to this day designates Jewish ladies' groups.

(3) "the bottom" (KJV)...a doubtful word of small usage but a "hollow place" a "valley" and in my mind it signifies Babylon...the valley of the Euphrates where the Jews had lived during the captivity.

d. Historical factors

Note the reference of v s. 12 to seventy years and with it the suggestion "how long will you not have mercy.." The seventy years undoubtedly refers to the Babylonian Captivity which had been concluded about 18 years ago. The vision therefore looks backwards to what has already been done. It sees God's judgment on his people complete, his judgment on the hethen in operation, and his proclamation for a new house with greater opportunities.

e. The Predictions in the vision:

- (1) The Lord's house shall be rebuilt..He has returned to Jerusalem
- (2) The city shall be developed
- (3) The Lord's cities shall prosper and multiply.

These are things the Lord is going to do. They are announced for the stimulation of the people.