

Old Testament Survey

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ZECHARIAH

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COMING UP ... •JAN 14 Esther •JAN 21 Nehemiah •JAN 28 Malachi **THE END**

ZECHARIAH SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: “Renewal”

THE TIMES ...

Almost 50,000 exiles returned to Jerusalem in 538 BC with a desire to resettle the land and rebuild the Temple
But opposition and apathy halted the work for 15-16 years
Following Haggai’s exhortations in 520 BC, they’ve just started building again
But God is just as concerned that their hearts—as well as His Temple—are spiritually rebuilt and renewed
So Zechariah is sent to call them to a fresh start with God ...
And to encourage them that He’ll be among them working behind the scenes to bring His Word and His will to pass

THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON

(see “The Three Returns From Exile” chart, p. 3)

THE BASICS ...

Who: Zechariah (“YHWH remembers”) **When:** postexilic (520-460? BC) **Where:** to the resettled Babylonian exiles
Why: “God would preserve His remnant from the gentile threat and would ultimately restore Israel’s kingdom by sending the Messiah.” –Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: A fresh start

Turn To Me (1:1-6)

God’s people had been living for themselves, not for Him, the past 15-16 years
Unless their hearts were right with Him, they couldn’t really walk with Him
He reminded them of their history
They needed to settle the issue ... again ... of “Who’s the boss?” of their lives
They needed a fresh start with God

Walk With Me (1:7-6:15)

Eight night visions (1:7-6:8)
A: Circumstances of peace (#1)
B: His power to overcome obstacles (#2, #3)
C: His leaders and His Spirit to rebuild (#4, #5)
B’: His power to overcome obstacles (#6, #7)
A’: Circumstances of peace (#8)
Joshua is crowned (6:9-15)
Be encouraged
Trust Me and depend on Me
My power can bring peace
My power can overcome obstacles yours can’t
My power brings cleansing and change
My power is inexhaustible
I am with you

Reflect Me (7-8)

Love Me from your heart (7:1-7)
Their traditions had become like religious “light switches”
They couldn’t worship Him one minute and forget Him the next
They couldn’t serve Him one minute ...
They couldn’t “honor” Him one minute ...
They couldn’t “love” Him one minute ...
They were just going through the motions

Love your neighbor from the heart (7:8-14)
To do justly (act with justice)
To love mercy (compassion)
And to walk humbly with your God ... all the time
A work day's behavior should look just like a Sabbath day's behavior
Live in such a way that others want what you have (8)
To know Me
To have an intimate relationship with Me
To live in My presence
To experience My blessing

My Kingdom Is Coming (9-14)

Messiah's rejection (9-11)
His first advent
Messiah's triumph (12-14)
His second advent

Summary

God's people have been living for themselves for the past 15-16 years; they need encouragement and hope for a fresh start as they return to His work
Turn to Me (1:1-6)
Walk with Me (1:7-6:15)
Reflect Me (7-8)
My kingdom is coming (9-14)

APPLICATION: A fresh start

Turn To Him

What's your spiritual temperature tonight?
Are you feeling a little apathetic?
Does your walk resemble a "light switch?"
Are you just going through the motions?
Are you just living for yourself?
It's not too late!
Make tomorrow morning a fresh start
Turn to Him in the Word and prayer

Walk With Him

Be encouraged
Trust Me and depend on Me
My power can bring peace
My power can overcome obstacles yours can't
My power brings cleansing and change
My power is inexhaustible
I am with you

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Are you discouraged? | God is with you |
| Are you surrounded? | God will fight for you |
| Lacking safety/security? | God will protect you |
| Accused by adversary? | God is your Advocate |
| Heavy responsibility? | God is inexhaustible |
| Is evil everywhere? | God's Word fights evil |
| Will evil ever end? | God will purge all evil |
| Will order ever prevail? | God will rule the earth |

Reflect Him

- Are you loving Him from your heart?
- Living relationship not a lifeless religion
- Are you loving your neighbor from the heart?
- Justice, mercy and humility
- Are you living in such a way that others want what you have?
- In grace, our walk with God is always a series of new beginnings and fresh starts!

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

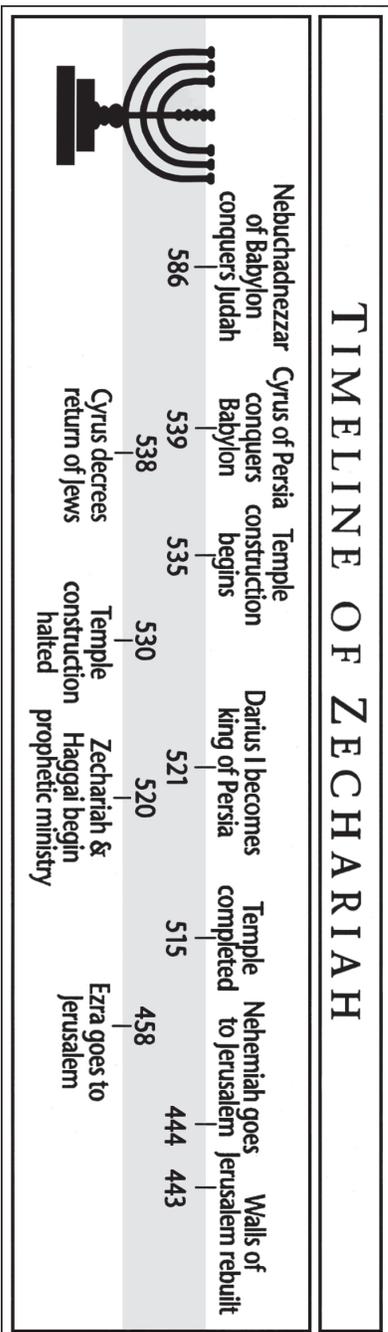
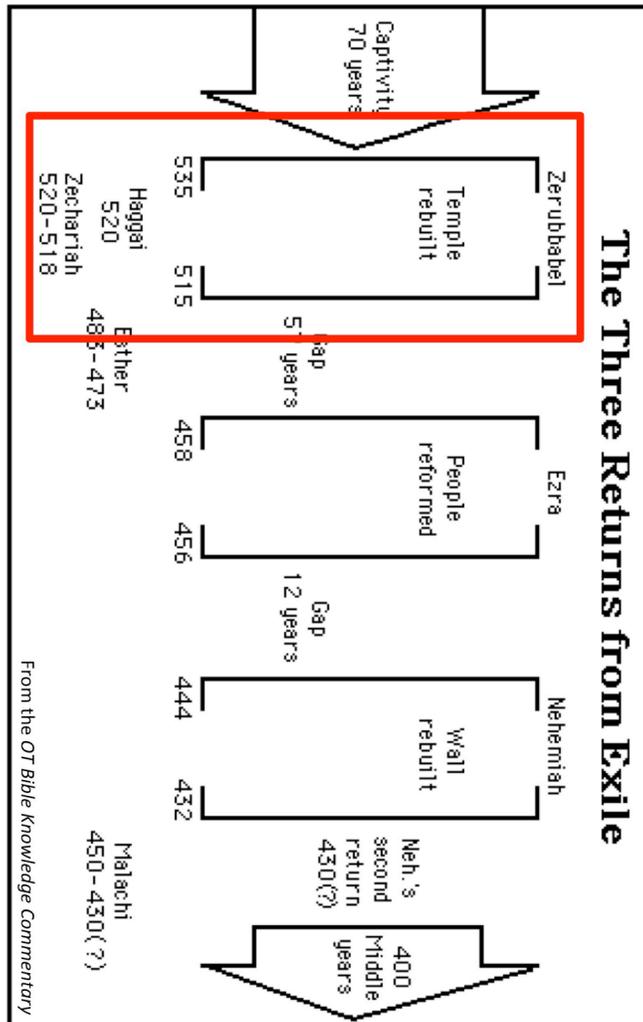
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"Zechariah" by James Tissot



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ZECHARIAH'S VISIONS

| <i>Vision</i> | <i>Reference</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
|--|------------------|---|
| Zechariah sees messengers reporting to God that the surrounding nations that have oppressed Judah are living in carelessness and sinful ease. | 1:7-17 | Israel was asking, "Why isn't God punishing the wicked?" Wicked nations may prosper, but not forever. God will bring upon them the judgment they deserve. |
| Zechariah sees four horns, representing the four world powers that oppressed and scattered the people of Judah and Israel. Then he sees four blacksmiths who will throw down the horns. | 1:18-21 | God will do what he promised. After the evil nations have carried out his will in punishing his people, God will destroy these nations for their sin. |
| Zechariah sees a man measuring the city of Jerusalem. The city will one day be full of people, and God himself will be a wall around the city. | 2:1-13 | The city will be restored in God's future Kingdom. God will keep his promise to protect his people. |
| Zechariah sees Jeshua, the high priest standing before God. Jeshua's filthy clothes are exchanged for fine new clothes; Satan's accusations against him are rejected by God. | 3:1-10 | The story of Jeshua the high priest pictures how the filthy clothes of sin are replaced with the pure linen of God's righteousness. Christ has taken our clothes of sin and replaced them with God's righteousness. (See Ephesians 4:24; 1 John 1:9.) |
| Zechariah sees a lampstand that is continually kept burning by an unlimited reservoir of oil. This picture reminds the people that it is only through God's Spirit that they will succeed, not by their own might and resources. | 4:1-14 | The Spirit of God is given without measure. Human effort does not make a difference. The work of God is not accomplished in human strength. |
| Zechariah sees a flying scroll, which represents God's curse. | 5:1-4 | By God's word and Spirit, every person will be judged. The individual's sin is the focus here, not the sins of the nation. God's curse is a symbol of destruction; all sin will be judged and removed. |
| Zechariah sees a vision of a woman in a basket. She represents the wickedness of the nations. The angel packed the woman back into the basket and sent her back to Babylon. | 5:5-11 | Sins of the individual were judged in the last vision (5:1-4); now sin is being removed from society. Sin has to be eradicated in order to clean up the nation and the individual. |
| Zechariah sees a vision of four horses and chariots. The horses represent God's judgment on the world—one is sent north, the direction from which most of Judah's enemies came. The other horses are patrolling the world, ready to execute judgment at God's command. | 6:1-8 | Judgment will come upon those who oppress God's people—it will come in God's time and at his command. |

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Zechariah's Eight Night Visions

| Vision | Reference | Meaning |
|--|-----------|---|
| The Red-horse Rider among the Myrtles | 1:7-17 | God's anger against the nations and blessing on restored Israel |
| The Four Horns and the Four Craftsmen | 1:18-21 | God's judgment on the nations that afflict Israel |
| The Surveyor with a Measuring Line | Chapter 2 | God's future blessing on restored Israel |
| The Cleansing and Crowning of Joshua the High Priest | Chapter 3 | Israel's future cleansing from sin and reinstatement as a priestly nation |
| The Golden Lampstand and the Two Olive Trees | Chapter 4 | Israel as the light to the nations under Messiah, the King-Priest |
| The Flying Scroll | 5:1-4 | The severity and totality of divine judgment on individual Israelities |
| The Woman in the Ephah | 5:5-11 | The removal of national Israel's sin of rebellion against God |
| The Four Chariots | 6:1-8 | Divine judgment on Gentile nations |