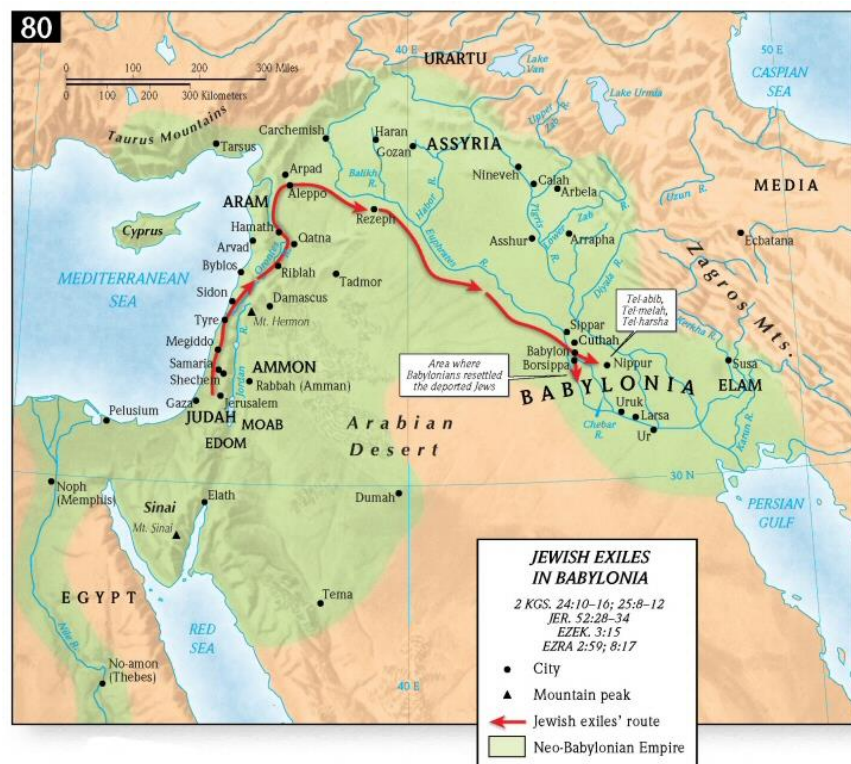


LESSON TWELVE

Zechariah 480-470

Introduction-(Ryrie)

- Zechariah was the son of Berechiah.
- Berechiah died during Zechariah's youth.
- Berechiah's father and priest, Iddo (Nehemiah 12:4), returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel and Joshua.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/307722587014890613/>

- According to tradition, Iddo was a member of the Great Synagogue (the governing body of the Jews before the Sanhedrin).
- Since Berechiah, had died, Zechariah succeeded his grandfather.
- **27** different people in the Old Testament have the name Zechariah.
- Zechariah means “Yahweh remembers.”

- Zechariah was a contemporary of the prophet Haggai (Ezra 5:1; 6:14).
- After King Cyrus made the decree in 538 B.C., only about 50,000 Jews returned to Palestine from Babylon.
- The Jews laid the foundation of the Temple in 536 B.C.; however, opposition stalled the work for about 15 years (Ezra 1:1-4; 4:1-5).



<http://biblicalauthorship.blogspot.com/2012/05/story-of-zerubbabel.html>

- Darius Hystaspes (1:1) came to the throne in 521 B.C. and confirmed Cyrus's decree for the Jews to rebuild the temple.
- Zechariah, like Haggai, encouraged the Jews to finish the temple.
- The people completed the temple in 516 B.C.

Artist's Depiction of Zerubbabel's Temple



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/zerubabel-temple-ddaf390?lang=eng>

- Other than Isaiah, Zechariah predicted more about the Messiah than any other prophet.
- Verses 3:8-9,16; 11:11-13; 12:10; and 13:1, 6 prophesy Christ's first coming.
- Verses 6:12 and 14:1-21 prophesy Christ's second coming.

Chapter 1:1-6-A Call to Repentance

- The Word of the Lord came to Zechariah in November of 520 B.C.
- God told Zechariah to tell the returning Jews from Babylon to repent and not to stray from God as their fathers had.
- God asked the Jews through Zechariah, "Where are your fathers now?"
 - God showed the people their false prophets and their words had died.
- God reminded the people His word lives forever and they should obey His laws.
- The people repented after listening to the words of Zechariah (1:7).

Chapter 1:7-17-A Vision of the Horses and Riders

- Zechariah saw eight separate visions in one night.
- A vision differs from a dream in that a person is awake in a vision while a person is asleep in a dream.
- Chapter 1:8-6 chronicles the eight visions.
- The first vision records a rider on a red horse with red, brown, and white horses behind.



<http://heavenawaits.wordpress.com/4-horses-4-horns-4-beasts-of-zechariah-and-revelation/>

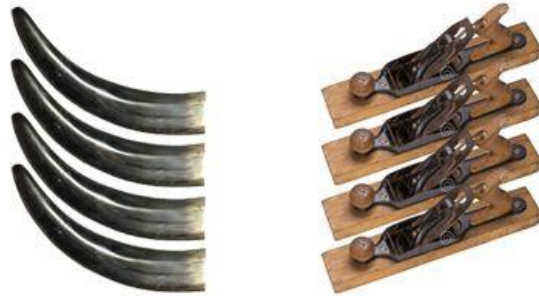
- Zechariah asked for the meaning of the riders and horses.
 - The rider on the red horse replied they patrolled the earth.

- “The Angel of the Lord” (1:11) rode the red horse. The word *Lord* is the same as used in Genesis 2:4 and Genesis 16:9-10 meaning “Yahweh.”
- The angels reported to the rider on the red horse that all the earth was peaceful and quiet.
 - This implied all the heathen nations lived in false security.
- The angel (Christ) proclaimed God’s exceeding jealousy and love for Jerusalem.
 - The nations’ treatment of Jerusalem made the angel very angry (Amos chapters 1-2).
- God promised to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the temple, and prosper Israel.

Chapter 1:18-21-A Vision of the Four Horns and Four Craftsmen

- Zechariah saw four horns and four craftsmen.

Zechariah 1:18 - 21



4 Horns vs. 4 Craftsmen

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/biblezechariah--282249101622181945/>

- The horns stood for the nations which had scattered the Jews living in Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.
- These nations could have been Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, and Medo-Persia.
- The craftsmen signified the nations whom God would use to overthrow the enemies of Israel (see the warning in Genesis 12:3).

Chapter 2:1-13-A Vision of the Surveyor

- Zechariah saw another vision in which an angel went out to measure Jerusalem.
- This measurement symbolized the restoration of Israel and God’s protection.
- A call went out for the inhabitants of Babylon to return to Jerusalem.
 - Only about 50,000 returned under Cyrus’s decree in 538 B.C.
- The Medo-Persian Empire was about to overthrow Babylon.
- Nations will come to Jerusalem during the Millennium to worship the Lord (2:11).

Chapter 3:1-10-A Vision of Joshua the High Priest

- Joshua, the high priest, served at the new temple.
- Some of the people apparently accused Joshua of being unfit to serve.
- The Lord rebuked the accusers and established Joshua's position.
- God personally rebuked Satan for His attempt to accuse Joshua.
 - This scene shows the security a Christian has in God.
 - Christ is our advocate.
 - God told Joshua about Israel's future security.

Chapter 4:1-14-A Vision of the Golden Lampstand

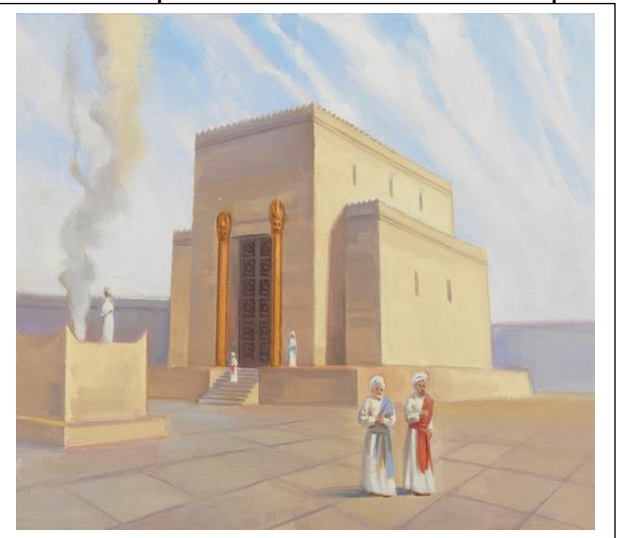
- God showed Zechariah a lampstand with two olive trees on each side.
- The message was for Zerubbabel, the civil leader in Jerusalem.
- Zechariah encouraged Zerubbabel to finish building the Temple.
- The two olive trees represented Joshua, the religious leader, and Zerubbabel, the civil leader.
- The Lord told the people not to despise the "small things." This referred to those who compared the new temple to Solomon's Temple.
 - Outward appearances should not judge God's power.

Artist's Depiction of Solomon's Temple



<http://detroitarchitectjournal.blogspot.com/2012/03/queen-of-sheba-and-prince-hall.html>

Artist's Depiction of Zerubbabel's Temple



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/zerubbabel-temple-ddaf390?lang=eng>

Chapter 5:1-4-The Vision of a Flying Scroll

- Zechariah saw an unrolled flying scroll (30 X 15 ft.).
- The scroll represented judgment upon sinners who stole and who swore falsely using God's name.

Chapter 5:5-11

- Zechariah saw an *ephah* (a barrel) large enough for a woman to sit.
- Two agents of God threw the woman into the barrel and put a lead weight over the top.
- The *ephah* was transported to *Shinar* (Babylon).
- The woman represented wickedness and her reign centered in Babylon.
- This woman had the same characteristics as the harlot (religious Babylon) in Revelation 17.

Chapter 6:1-8-A Vision of the Four Chariots

- Zechariah saw four chariots pulled by a red, black, white, and spotted gray horse.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycbnoxxvkIE>

- The horses went to the North, and to the South.
- The horses and chariots represented judgment, especially of Babylon, the empire to the North and Egypt to the South.
- The Persians defeated Babylon three years after this vision.
- The vision could also stand for Babylon's downfall during the Tribulation.

Chapter 6:9-15-The Crowning of Joshua

- God told Zechariah to crown Joshua with a very ornate crown.
- The crown foreshadowed the crowning of Jesus, the Messiah.
- During the Millennium, Jesus will serve as king and priest.

Chapter 7:1-3-The Fasts

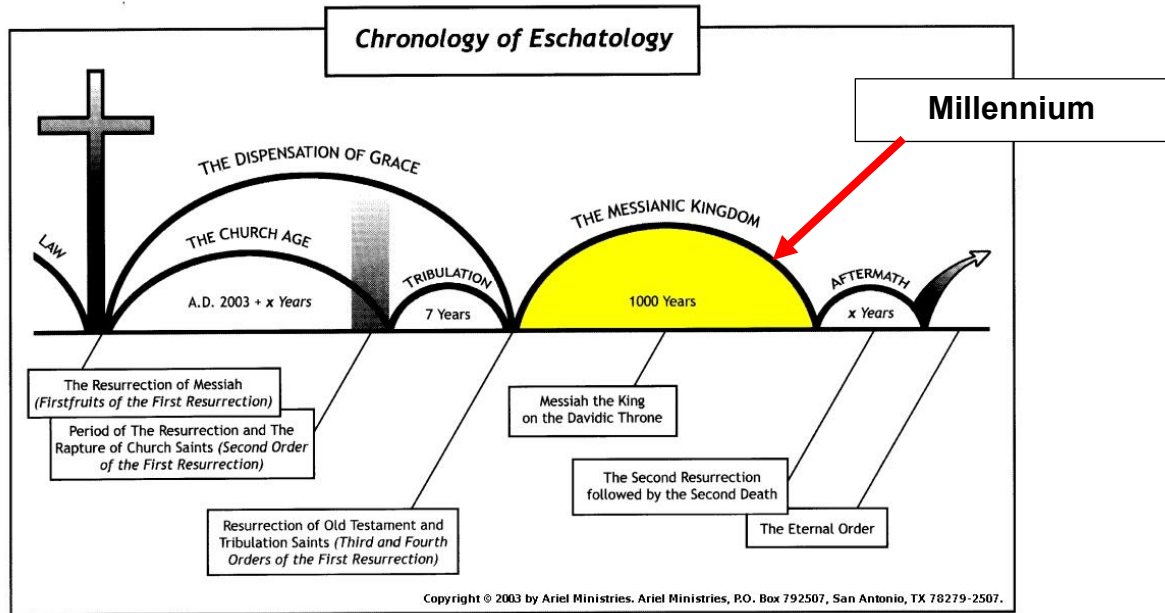
- On December 7, 518 B.C., a delegation came to Jerusalem from Bethel.
- The delegation asked whether they should fast during the fifth month.
 - This fast commemorated the burning of the first Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C (Jeremiah 52:12-13).
 - Now with a second temple, the people of Bethel wanted to know if they should continue this fast.

Chapter 7:4-14-The Failure of the People

- The Jewish people instituted two fasts:
 - The fifth month fast commemorated the destruction of the temple.
 - The seventh month fast commemorated the assassination of Gedaliah, the Jewish governor of Judah (2 Kings 25:23-25).
- God did not institute these fasts.
- God reminded the people they would have never needed these fasts had they listened to God's word and to His prophets.

Chapter 8:1-23-The Future for Jerusalem

- God told the people about their future blessings during the Millennium.



https://www.preceptaustin.org/the_millennium

- God affirmed his jealousy for Zion (Jerusalem) 1:8:2.
- Jerusalem will be called the “City of Truth” (Ezekiel 48:35 “*The Lord Is There*”).
- The Jews will obey God during the Millennium (8: 8, 12-13).
- Four fasts of remembrances not instituted by God will turn into feasts of joy during the Millennium.
 - The fast of the fourth month commemorated Nebuchadnezzar entering Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
 - The fifth month commemorated the burning of the Temple and other buildings in 586 B.C.
 - The seventh month commemorated Gedaliah’s assassination in 586 B.C.
 - The tenth month commemorated the siege of Jerusalem in 588 B.C.
- Gentiles will come to Jerusalem and seek the Lord during the Millennium (8:22-23).

Chapter 9:1-8-The Victories of Alexander the Great

- Zechariah gave a prophecy concerning Alexander the Great’s conquest from Greece (9:13).



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexander-the-Great>

- The Lord would protect Jerusalem from Alexander's power (9:9).
 - This protection is likened to the Lord's protection of Jerusalem during King Sennacherib's invasion (2 Kings 19:5-7).

Chapter 9:9-10-The Coming Messiah

- Christ fulfilled Verse 9 by His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:4-5).
- Since the Jews rejected Him, verse 10 will take place at Christ's Second Coming.

Chapter 9:11-17-The Maccabees' Victories

- God promised restoration and blessing for those still in Babylon (9:11-12).
- Verses 13-17 predicted the defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes by the Jewish people during the Maccabean era (second century B.C.).

Chapter 10:1-12

- The Lord will strengthen Judah when the Messiah returns.
- Christ will function as the: (10:4)
 - Cornerstone
 - **Tent peg**
 - Bow of battle
 - Ruler
- During the Millennium, God will bring the Jews back from all parts of the world (10:10; Matthew 24:31).

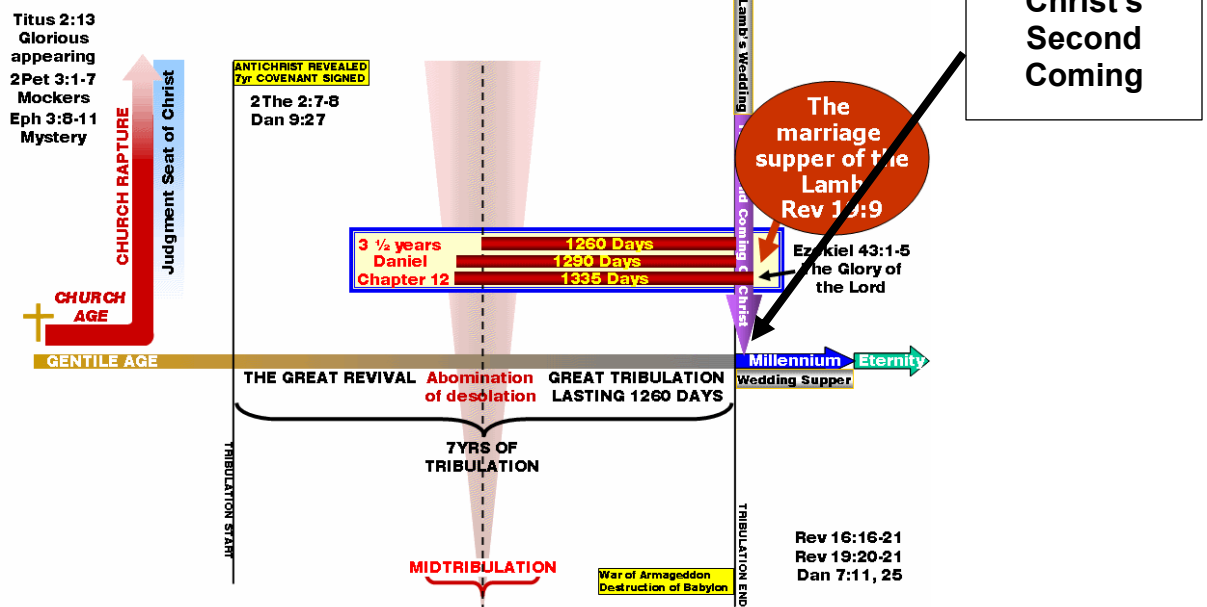
Chapter 11:1-17

- Zechariah gave an amazing prophecy concerning the Messiah's betrayal (11:12-13).
 - See Matthew 27:3-10

Chapter 12:1-14-The Lord's care for Jerusalem during the Millennium

- The phrase, "*In that Day*" occurs 16 times in the last three chapters.
 - The phrase refers to the battle of Armageddon.
- "*In that Day*:" (12:3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11)
- When Christ reveals Himself at His Second Coming, the Jews will recognize Him as the one they pierced, and they will greatly mourn (12:10).

Significant Events Leading to Christ's Return



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/355502964313116499/>

Chapter 13:1-9-The Lord cleanses Jerusalem

- False prophets will die after Christ's Second Coming (13:3).
- Zechariah prophesied Christ's death and the scattering of the disciples after His arrest (Matthew 26:31).
- Christ will save one-third of the Jews at the time of His return (13:8-9; Romans 11:26).

Chapter 14:1-21-The Second coming of the Lord to Jerusalem

- Verses 1-5 describe one of the last battles of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14).
- Warring nations will overtake Jerusalem and will divide the spoils.
- At this time, Christ will appear on the Mount of Olives and the mountain will split in two allowing survivors to flee.



<https://www.israeltravelcentre.com.au/places-to-visit/mount-of-olives/>

- Cosmic disturbances will affect day and night when Christ returns to earth (Acts 2:19-20).
- Christ will reign as king over the entire earth (14:9).
- Christ will destroy all enemies of Jerusalem and their animals (14:12-15).
 - This plague will cause much destruction.
- During the Millennium, all nations must go to Jerusalem, worship the Lord, and celebrate the Feast of Booths (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Summary

- Zechariah gave many prophecies concerning Christ's first and second coming and His protection for Israel.
- All Zechariah's prophecies concerning Christ's first coming came true as did his prophecies concerning Alexander the Great and the Maccabean revolt.
- Studying prophecy gives a believer hope and encouragement that God's word is true and trustworthy.
- God has a wonderful plan for all of us. While we may experience blessings on earth, they will not compare to the eternal blessings we will enjoy with Christ in the New Heaven and New Earth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Twelve

1. Only about 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon.
 - A. Why didn't more Jews return?
 - B. What might this small number say about spiritual stagnancy? Can you give examples of spiritual stagnancy?
 - C. How can we stay spiritually strong? Explain.

2. The name Zechariah means "Yahweh remembers".
 - A. How did Zechariah's name apply to the Jewish people in Babylon?
 - B. Did the Jews in Babylon sense God had left them?
 - C. How might Zechariah's name apply to a situation in your life? Explain.

3. Other than Isaiah, Zechariah predicted more about the Messiah than any other prophet.
 - A. Why did the Jewish people reject Jesus after Isaiah and Zechariah prophesied so much about Him?
 - B. Is it possible for us to misunderstand God's voice? Explain.
 - C. Read Psalms 119:11. How might this verse help us hear and understand God's voice?