

The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions





Redemptive History





Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period¹

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	Declaration of Cyrus (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
Darius I	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	



Zechariah 2:1-13 (ESV)

2:1 And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! **2** Then I said, “Where are you going?” And he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.” **3** And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him **4** and said to him, “Run, say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. **5** And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.’”

6 Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD. **7** Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. **8** For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: **9** “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me. **10** Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. **11** And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. **12** And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.



Jerusalem

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! Then I said, “Where are you going?” And he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.” (Zechariah 2:1-2 ESV)

- behold - new vision or new chapter
- Jerusalem
 - symbol of God’s people
 - temple - God dwelling with his people
 - picture of the covenant people
 - picture of the church
 - idealized - picture of what is to be
- measuring line
 - surveyor preparing for Jerusalem’s expansion
 - sign of God’s intent to protect and prosper his people



... without walls

- behold - same chapter, but moment of focus
 - angel to angel
 - taking God's message to Zechariah
 - young man - inexperience, need for instruction
- without walls
 - opposite of a threatened people returned from exile
 - opposite of a people opposed by their neighbors
 - prosperous covenant community
 - picture of the Gospel going to the nations
 - bringing in of the Gentiles?
- I will be her wall
 - too great a size for a physical wall - Nehemiah
 - God himself will protect the covenant people
 - like a pillar of fire
 - glory in midst - the temple

And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him and said to him, “Run, say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.’”
(Zechariah 2:1-2 ESV)



... in your midst

- Zechariah prophecies
- call upon more exiles to return?
- reflection on decree of Cyrus?
- land of the north/land of Babylon
 - flee
 - escape to Zion
- four winds of heavens
 - complete/total exile
 - return
- who is sent?
- the apple of his eye - precious to YHWH (Deuteronomy 32)
- shake my hand - judgment
- in your midst - temple language

Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD. Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. (Zechariah 2:6-10 ESV)



... in that day

- in that day - the already and not yet
- future state
 - in their midst - fulfillment of the temple
 - many nations - inclusion of the gentiles
 - you shall know
- has sent me
 - shift from Yahweh to Zechariah
- inherit Judah/choose Jerusalem - exile lifted
- roused himself - from his temple
 - temple to be complete
 - next chapter - the high priest
- Revelation 21

And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling. (Zechariah 2:11-13 ESV)