

The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions (Zechariah 6b)





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)	

1. Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament, John H. Walton, 1994, p. 70



Zechariah 6:9-15 (ESV)

9 And the word of the LORD came to me: 10 “Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. 11 Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’ 14 And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 “And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

And the word of the LORD came to me:
(Zechariah 6:9 ESV)



...came to me

- word of Yahweh
 - prophecy and not vision
 - theme still part of visionary narrative
- no date
 - visions - second year of Darius
 - ch. 7 - fourth year
- v. 1-8 - bookend with first vision
 - horses
 - chariots
- twist in the plot
 - the narrative is not complete
- came to me
 - in real space and time
 - vision made manifest
 - symbolic action before the people
 - will capture the imagination



who have arrived

“Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. (Zechariah 6:10 ESV)

- exiles...arrived from Babylon
 - new arrivals?
 - response to Zechariah’s visions
 - “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.” (Zechariah 2:6-7 ESV)
- Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah ... Josiah, the son of Zephaniah
 - who are they?
 - faithful men? - testify to God’s faithfulness
 - doubters? - chastised with God’s promise
 - wealthy? - provide materials
 - Josiah, the son of Zephaniah
 - well known? - son of...
 - son of? - father or descendant
 - Zephaniah? - prophesied during Josiah’s reign
 - “real” men
 - not visionary event



crown(s)

Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. (Zechariah 6:11 ESV)

- crown - עֵטָרִת (plural)
 - plural - emphasize? - grandeur, splendor, authority
 - type of crown - crown within a crown
 - two materials - silver and gold
 - two crowns (Calvin) - two offices
- head of Joshua
 - the high priest
 - not priestly garb
 - “And I [Zechariah] said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by. (Zechariah 3:5 ESV)
 - for a king
 - separation of offices
 - king - descendant of David, tribe of Judah
 - high priest - descendent of Aaron, tribe of Levi
 - ordinary high priest cannot sit on the throne of David



the Branch

And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. (Zechariah 6:12 ESV)

- say to him - Joshua
- behold - see/look at yourself in this crown; a symbol
- the Branch
 - Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. (Zechariah 3:8 ESV)
 - you and your friends who sit before you - the priesthood
 - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ (Jeremiah 23:5-6 ESV)
 - themes - justice, righteousness, Judah, salvation, security
 - Joshua - a sign; points to the Branch



the Branch

And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. (Zechariah 6:12 ESV)

- branch out (sprout)
 - extended his reach
 - grow in impact
- this place
 - the Temple?
 - Jerusalem?
 - Judah?
- build the temple
 - at this point - temple completed or near completion
 - great temple to come
 - symbolic language
 - crown - symbolic
 - Branch - symbolic
 - temple - symbolic
 - what is to come?



it is he

It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.' (Zechariah 6:13 ESV)

- he - the Branch
 - points to a greater reality than Joshua
 - it is Christ
- the temple
 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV)
 - the covenant community, the people of God, the church
 - So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (John 2:20-22)
 - Christ himself in his priestly work
- royal honor, sit and rule
 - clearly not only a priest, but the Davidic heir
 - God does complete the earthly temple through Zerubbabel (Zechariah 4)
 - but, only governor



it is he

It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.' (Zechariah 6:13 ESV)

- his throne
 - the Branch's?
 - Yahweh's?
- priest on the throne
 - emphasis on the uniqueness of it all
- counsel of peace
 - the two are at peace
- between them both
 - but, who are the two?
 - Zerubbabel and Joshua, no - this is testimony of a far great reality
 - Priestly and Kingly office, maybe - could be peace as in harmony
 - if the throne is Yahweh's throne
 - could be harmony between Yahweh and the Branch
 - relationship between the Father and the Son
 - allusion to the peace to come through Christ



in the temple

And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. (Zechariah 6:14 ESV)

- reminder
 - where? - before people who were not only priests
 - constant reminder of something new to come
- Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah
 - same men?
 - Heldai → Helem
 - Tobijah → Tobijah
 - Jedaiah → Jedaiah
 - Josiah → Hen
 - or some the same, others descendants
- but, a reminder for generations to come



far off

“And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. (Zechariah 6:15a ESV)

- far off
 - exiles are returning
 - point to more than the exiles
 - people who are not of the covenant people
- build the temple
 - already near completion
 - unique work of the Branch
- ingrafting of the Gentiles
 - alluded to in Ephesians 2
 - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were **far off** have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:11-13)
- you shall know
 - sent to you, we have received this promise of Yahweh through Zechariah

And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Zechariah 6:15b ESV)



if

- if you obey
 - conditionality?
 - the promise would come, but received by faith
- He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:31-36 ESV)
 - belief in the son - eternal life
 - obedience as a fruit of faith