

OT-OV

Lesson 137

Last week I completed an overview of the book of Zephaniah and the book of Haggai and when time expired we were about to overview the book of Zechariah. Zechariah wrote the book in about 520 B.C. from Judah. The prophet wrote of the future restoration of Israel and the wonders of the Messiah's Kingdom. He was a contemporary of Haggai and spoke primarily to Judah after their first return. He was specifically called to get the people to rebuild the Temple.

1. Zechariah, a contemporary of Haggai began his prophetic ministry in 520. The name "Zechariah" was a common one in the Old Testament, twenty-nine persons having borne it. It means the Lord remembers.

2. Cyrus, a Persian king, issued a decree in c 538 B.C. that all who desired to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple could return with Zerubbabel as the political leader and Joshua as the high priest. (2Ch 36:22-23; Ezr 1:1-4)

2Ch 36:22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

2Ch 36:23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you-- may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

Ezr 1:1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah (Jer 25:11), the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

Ezr 1:2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.

Ezr 1:3 Anyone of his people among you-- may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.

Ezr 1:4 And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem."

2.1 That Cyrus would authorize the return to the land was predicted by Isaiah some 150 years before it occurred.

Isa 44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

Isa 45:1 "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

Isa 45:2 I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

Isa 45:13 I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty."

3. About 50,000 exiles availed themselves of the authorization. With high purpose they determined to resettle in the land and restore the Temple.

4. In the second month (April or May) of 536 they laid the foundation. (Ezr 3:8, 11-13)

Ezr 3:8 In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work, appointing Levites twenty years of age and older to supervise the building of the house of the LORD ...

Ezr 3:11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Ezr 3:12 But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.

Ezr 3:13 No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

5. Early in the work the Samaritans were denied any participation in the rebuilding; accordingly they declared themselves in opposition to the project and worked against rebuilding of the Temple. (Ezr 4:3-5)

Ezr 4:3 But Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, "You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us."

Ezr 4:4 Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.

Ezr 4:5 They hired counselors to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.

6. For almost fourteen years the work ceased for various reasons. A major problem arose when Tatnai, Persian governor for the territory west of the Euphrates, inquired of Darius if Cyrus had actually authorized the work.

7. After the passing of several months Darius confirmed the decree and work was resumed. Later the Jewish returnees lost interest in the reconstruction; they judged that an accumulation of hindrances in the reconstruction indicated that God was not in the work.

8. Haggai and Zechariah awakened the nation from its indifference. The people responded, and the building was completed in 516, the sixth year of Darius' reign.

9. Although Zechariah begins with the theme of the restoration of the sanctuary, he touches upon many phases of the spiritual life of the nation, and he treats with remarkable fullness the prophetic events leading up to the Messiah's return and reign.

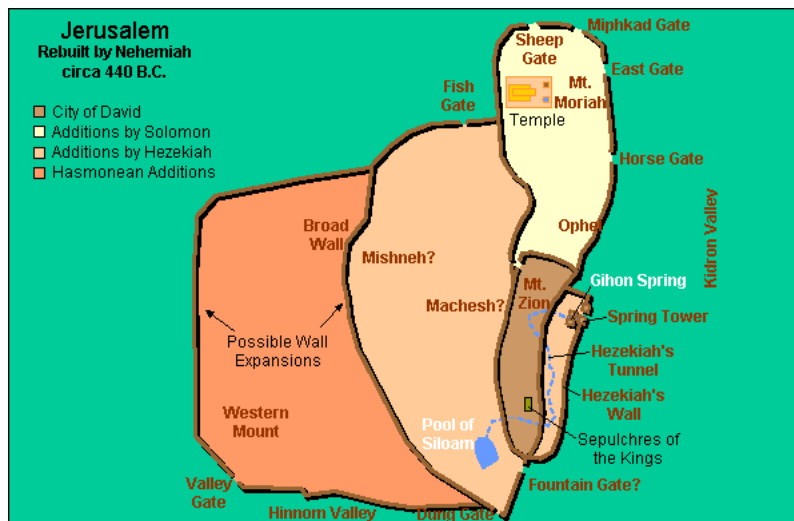
10. Outline

I. Eight Night Visions > 1:1-6:8

A. The Riders And The Horses > 1:1-17

Expanded Translation

Zec 1:8 It was night when he had a vision; he saw a man, the Lord Jesus Christ mounted on a red horse. The horse was standing among the myrtle trees in a deep ravine just east of Jerusalem. Behind the Lord Zechariah could see the other riders sitting on red, dappled sorrels and white horses.



Zec 1:9 I, Zechariah, said to the interpreting angel, "My Lord who are the horseman in the ravine and what is their function?" The angel answered, "I am going to show you who they are and what they do."

Zec 1:10 Then the rider on the Red Horse, the Lord Jesus interjected, "These riders were sent by the Father to travel all over planet earth and then to report back what they see."

Zec 1:11 And then a spokesman for the reconnaissance team reported to the Lord Jesus Who sat amidst the myrtle trees on the Red Horse, "as ordered Sir we have patrolled every inch of planet earth and we are pleased to report we saw nothing untoward or dangerous lurking, Satan and his team of demons have gone subterranean."

Zec 1:12 After the report from the reconnoitering angels, the Lord Jesus Christ, answered with a question to the Father, the Lord of the Armies, "how long" He asked, "before You show mercy to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah? The people of the land have been under discipline for some 70 years."

Zec 1:13 The Lord Jesus Christ comforted me with good words, compassionately reassuring me of God's love for His people.

Zec 1:14 And the interpreting angel said: "cry out to all who will listen, God the Father, the Lord of the Armies, is greatly jealous for both Jerusalem and for Judah.

Zec 1:15 Now as a result of my love for Israel I am very angry at the nations who sit comfortably in peace. It is true I permitted them to discipline my people Israel but Satan inspired in them far greater wrath than intended. In fact each of them seemed to relish the destruction of My beloved people."

Zec 1:16 I then heard Jehovah, the Lord Jesus, say, "Hear up for this is My command I shall return to Jerusalem with great love and affection, My house shall be built in the city;" and then the Lord of the Armies, the Father, stretched a surveyor's line over the city. It was apparent He was measuring a future city of large proportions.

Zec 1:17 And then I heard The Lord of the Armies, the Father, cry out once again, "Moreover My cities in the land shall grow and become centers of prosperity. I, Jehovah, shall again show love and kindness to Zion and I shall choose once more Jerusalem as My beloved city."



B. The Four Horns and the Four Craftsmen > 1:18-21

Expanded Translation

Zec 1:18 As I was thinking on the meaning of the first vision, I became aware of the presence of another strange apparition. Slowly I raised my head and there before my eyes were four detached horns.

Zec 1:19 I then said to the interpreting angel, "What are these?" And the angel answered, "These are four horns that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem."

Zec 1:20 And the Lord Jesus called my attention to the four Artisans who stood near. They were dressed in aprons and carried their tools in hand.

Zec 1:21 And then I said, "what have these workmen come to do?" Then the Lord spoke saying: "these horns are the ones who have repeatedly dispersed Judah; so egregious were their attacks that no one in Judah could raise his head. These artisans have returned to terrify and destroy the four empires who like a wild animal charged and gored repeatedly those living in the land and thus were the people of Judah scattered."

C. The Man with the Measuring Line > 2:1-13

Expanded Translation

Zec 2:1 After the vision of the horns and the artisans I again meditated upon the meaning and then suddenly I saw a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, with a measuring line in his hand.

Zec 2:2 And then I asked the man with the measuring line, "Where are you going and what are you going to do?" The Lord Jesus answered "I am going to measure the future size of Jerusalem."

Zec 2:3 And suddenly the angel who had earlier conversed with me left and then another angel went out to meet him.

Zec 2:4 And then I heard the interpreting angel say to a second angel standing nearby "hurry and tell the young prophet Zechariah Jerusalem shall one day grow in population and prosperity; even to the extent that its city limits shall extend beyond the ruins of its existing walls."

Zec 2:5 And as the Lord of The Angelic Armies of Heaven, I the Lord Jesus Christ shall be to Jerusalem a wall of fire to protect, honor and glorify her; I shall in fact make my home inside the city of David.

Zec 2:6 Now listen up said the Lord Jesus Christ, "those of you who are living in Babylon, I urge you to flee from where I sent you and return to the Promised Land; I didn't disperse you in order that you die in a Babylonian revolt, you were exiled in order that I might return you to your Land of Promise.

Zec 2:7 Now listen up Israel, you who continue to dwell in Babylon, deliver yourselves."

Zec 2:8 For you see the Lord of the Armies says "after My glorification the Father will send Me against all those nations who have despoiled Israel, for he who touches the apple of My eye, touches Me."

Zec 2:9 Now listen, as the Lord of the Armies I will shake my fist at those who have plundered My people and the enemies of Israel shall become the servants of Zion; and then the entire world shall know it was the Father who sent Me.

Zec 2:10 Sing and make a joyful noise unto the Lord you daughter of Zion because I tell you as a certainty a future day is coming when I as your Messiah King shall descend from heaven and dwell permanently in the midst of you in the city of Jerusalem. So declares the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 2:11 And many nations from all over the world shall decide to join in the worship of the Lord; in that day the nations will join with Israel and they too shall become my people; all of this shall come to pass when I shall dwell in Jerusalem and then all shall know that My Father, the Lord of the Armies has sent Me.

Zec 2:12 And Christ the Messiah shall inherit both Judah and Jerusalem as His Holy Land; it is there He will permanently reside with his perfect people in perfect environment.

Zec 2:13 The Lord continued His discourse: "Let all the world keep silence before Me for I have been aroused and awakened by the cries of My promised people Israel; I will leave My home in the Third Heaven and will take up a permanent residence in Jerusalem."

D. The Cleansing Of Joshua > 3:1-10

Expanded Translation

Zec 3:1 And then the angel showed me a scene in heaven; I saw Joshua, the High Priest, standing alongside the Lord Jesus Christ and beside Joshua stood Satan accusing Joshua of all manner of sin and evil.

Zec 3:2 And then the Lord Jesus said to Satan "I rebuke you Satan;" after all I am the One Who chose Jerusalem and is not this Israel whom I rescued from the fire.

Zec 3:3 Now Joshua was attired in the regal garments of the High Priesthood but his garments were covered with excrement.

Zec 3:4 And the Lord Jesus said to the angels standing around Him "take his filthy clothes;" then the Lord said to Joshua "see I have caused your iniquity to pass from you and I have clothed you in clean garments."

Zec 3:5 Zechariah was so impressed by what he had seen, he proclaimed "place the bright and clean turban upon Joshua's head" and so they placed the turban of the High Priest on his head and the angels wrapped him in a robe of honor even as the Angel of The Lord stood near.

Zec 3:6 Then the Lord Jesus Christ solemnly affirmed to Joshua saying,

Zec 3:7 "The Lord of the Armies, My Father affirms in this manner: "if you will walk in my ways, if you will act as a guardian of My Word and if you yourself will properly rule and guard My Temple courts including the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, then will I let you govern the Temple and I will give to you authorization, power and privilege to walk among the angels who serve Me in the Third Heaven."

Zec 3:8 "Now I urge you Joshua as the High Priest, both you and your friends who sit before you as priests and many of those who will follow as priests, I want you to listen, hear and concentrate; each of you are a sign and therefore you must do your job conscientiously and expertly for you are all prototypes proclaiming the future coming of My Servant, the Branch."

Zec 3:9 Now Joshua take a look at the Stone which I have placed before you, a stone which has seven eyes" declares the Father, the Lord of the armies; "furthermore" said the Father, the Lord of the Armies, "I shall engrave on that Stone the following "all sin and iniquity will be removed from the land in one day."

End Lesson