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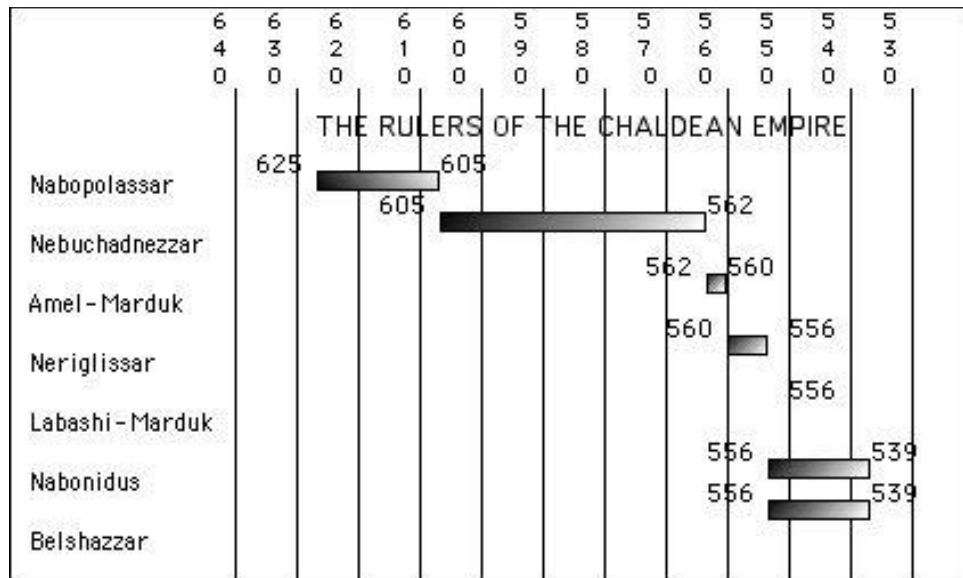
Lesson 138

1. Last week I taught in part an overview of The Book of Zechariah. We need to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material at point nine on page three.

Zechariah: 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 return. He was specifically called to get the people to rebuild the Temple.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

- 1. Zechariah and Haggai, began their prophetic ministries in c. 520.
- 2. Let's stop here and take a look at several important dates and actions which will help place Zechariah's work in proper chronological perspective.
 - 2.1 In 625 Babylonia is established as a future power by the Assyrian Nabopolassar. Nabopolassar became the first Chaldean king and probably was the father of Nebuchadnezzar.



2.2 In 612 Babylonia defeats Egypt and Assyria at Carchemish.

2.3 In 606 Judah is defeated by Babylon and many are deported to begin the seventy year dispersion predicted by Jeremiah in Jer 25:11, two subsequent deportations will follow in 597 and 586.

- 2.4 In 539 Cyrus conquers Babylon (end of the Chaldean Empire).
- 2.5 In 538 Cyrus authorizes a Jewish repatriation.
- 2.6 In 536 some 49,897 Jews return and thus ends the 70 year dispersion.
- 2.7 In 535 the Altar and the foundation of the Temple are rebuilt and sacrifices offered.
- 2.8 In 535 the work on the Temple is stopped.
- 2.9 In 535-520 hardships and economic depression prevailed in Jerusalem; people forgot the Temple and selfishly concentrate on their own needs.
- 2.10 In 520 Darius confirms the decree of Cyrus.
- 2.11 In 520 Haggai's first sermon is preached; Zechariah's opening sermon is also preached in 520.
- 2.12 In 520 in the eleventh month (Feb.- Mar.), on the twenty-fourth day, Zechariah's eight night visions occur (Zec 1:7-6:8).
- 2.13 In 516 B.C. in the twelfth month (Mar - Apr.), the third day, the completion and dedication of the Temple occurs (Ezr 6:15).
- 2.14 In 445 B.C. Artaxerxes I authorized Nehemiah to restore Jerusalem's walls.
3. That Cyrus would authorize the return was predicted by Isaiah some 150 years before the edict. Isa 44:28; 45:1-2 and 45:13
4. 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.
5. 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. After the passing of several months Darius confirmed the decree and work was resumed.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Last week we began a study of the eight night visions; when time expired we were about to study vision number five, the vision of the lampstand and the two olive trees. So far I have taught the first four visions which can be summarized as follows:

8.1 The vision of the Red Horse Rider and the multi-colored horses - teaching the watch care of Jesus Christ and His angels over Israel. Zec 1:1-17

8.2 The vision of the horns and the artisans - teaching the judgment of the four eschatological empires abusing Israel. Zec 1:18-21

8.3 The vision of the measuring line - teaching the future greatness of Jerusalem. Zec 2:1-13

8.4 The vision of Joshua the High Priest being accused and exonerated - teaching the mediation ministry of Christ in heaven. Zec 3:1-10

9. Now for new material and the fifth vision.

10. The Lampstand And The Olive Trees > 4:1-14

Zec 4:1 Exhausted from the first four night visions I fell into a deep sleep; then the interpreting angel who had earlier talked with me awakened me. I was dazed like as someone who had been awakened out of a stupor.

Zec 4:2 The interpreting angel said to me: "what do you see?" And I said: "behold a candlestick made of pure gold with an oil bowl on top of it, the lampstand has seven lamps upon it, and there are seven funnels leading from the bowl to each of the candlesticks; there are 49 funnels in all.

Zec 4:3 I also see two olive trees beside the bowl, there is one on the right side of the bowl and another on the left side of the bowl.

Zec 4:4 What is the meaning of the vision?"

Zec 4:5 The interpreting angel answered "don't you know the meaning of the vision?" And I said "no my lord."

Zec 4:6 The interpreting angel then said to me: "this is the Word of the Lord to Zerubbabel not by your strength nor by your power and ability but by my Spirit will the work get done," said the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 4:7 Now with reference to the formidable problems facing Zerubbabel; the Use will be solved and the mountain shall become a mole hill; Zerubbabel will bring out the Head Stone amidst great joy and admiration "how wonderful it is."

Zec 4:8 The Lord Jesus then promised Israel.

Zec 4:9 "Under the leadership of Zerubbabel the foundation of the Temple will be constructed and by his very own hands the Temple will be completed; when this occurs all will know the Father, the Lord of the armies has sent Me.

Zec 4:10 When the people see Zerubbabel using his plumb line to properly place the final cap stone they shall rejoice; even those who earlier despised and made light of Zerubbabel's project, when they recall the Lord's protection of His people and see the final stone placed even in the middle of so many enemies, they shall shout with joy."

Zec 4:11 After hearing of the joy of those who will see the Temple completed, I responded by asking the interpreting angel a question. "What is the meaning of the two olive trees that stand on the right and left of the lampstand?"

Zec 4:12 Before he could answer I asked a second question, "what is the meaning of the two olive tree branches through which the golden oil flows into the large golden bowl standing above the lampstand?"

Zec 4:13 The interpreting angel responded by asking me again. "Don't you know the meaning of the olive trees with their prolific branches?" And I again responded "no my lord."

Zec 4:14 These two trees and the oil flowing from each represent blessings and power which shall flow from the Messiah's political & spiritual rule for He shall not only be King Jesus but He shall also be High Priest Jesus.

11. The Flying Scroll > 5:1-4

Zec 5:1 Suddenly my attention was drawn to the sky, I looked up and there before my eyes was a flying scroll.

Zec 5:2 The interpreting angel asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll sent to discipline Israel; it is thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide."

Zec 5:3 Then the interpreting angel said to me "this scroll is God's curse upon all the citizens of the earth; it has primary application to all Israel whether in or out of the land; it is upon all who steal and swear falsely."

Zec 5:4 The Lord of the Armies then said, "I will cause the Scroll of judgment to enter the house of those who have acquired great wealth by cheating and stealing; this same Scroll shall also seek out and enter the lavish homes of those who have abused Israel's justice system; I will remain in the home of both the thief and the perjurer until I have completely leveled their homes."

12. The Woman In The Basket > 5:5-11

Zec 5:5 And the interpreting angel who earlier spoke with me approached and said to me, "please raise up your eyes and look at the vision which has been brought before you."

Zec 5:6 Then I said to the angel who had earlier spoke with me, "what is the meaning of the basket?" And he said to me "this is the basket representing Israel's commercial practices; their reputation as a cheat pervades the global community. Wherever they go to transact business they leave behind a bad taste in the mouth of those with whom they deal."

Zec 5:7 Suddenly the lead top weighing about 125 pounds was lifted up and inside the stone jar was a woman; she was sitting in the middle of the ephah.

Zec 5:8 And then the interpreting angel said "this vision of the woman in the ephah represents Israel's dishonesty in business, as you can see she is pushed back into the basket and the heavy top is thrown over the mouth of the ephah to ensure she does not escape.

Zec 5:9 I had been looking down into the tall stone basket when I heard a commotion above me; I raised my eyes and looked toward the sky and suddenly I saw two women approaching the basket; the women had large wings which were used to carry the basket into the heavens.

Zec 5:10 And I said to the interpreting angel who had earlier spoken with me, "where are they taking the Ephah?"

Zec 5:11 And the interpreting angel said to me "the two flying angels are going to build a house in the valley of Shinar in Babylonia and it is there the ephah shall stand and rest peacefully upon a firm foundation and then suddenly she will be disquieted when the Lord returns to put her down with all her evil and iniquity.

13. The Four Chariots > 6:1-8

Zec 6:1 And then I lifted up my eyes and there I saw four war chariots flying between Mount Moriah and the Mount of Olives. Their mission was one of judging and destroying the nations who had abused Israel.

Zec 6:2 The first chariot representing war was harnessed to several red horses and the second chariot representing famine and death was harnessed to several black horses.

Zec 6:3 Harnessed to the third chariot were white horses representing military victory and harnessed to the fourth chariot representing blood and catastrophe were spotted red horses, the latter being active, fleet and vigorous.

Zec 6:4 I then said to the angel who had earlier spoken with me. "What are these my lord?"

Zec 6:5 And then the angel answered saying "these four chariots are the four spirits of the heavens going out from the Third Heaven where they have been standing before the Lord of the entire earth. The Spirits have come from heaven to destroy those nations who gathered at Megiddo in opposition to Israel.

Zec 6:6 The war chariots pulled by the black and white horses are seen going north while the paint horses are seen going south toward Egypt.

Zec 6:7 And all of the high spirited horses were eager to continue their work of judgment; and then they were commanded by the Lord of the whole earth to go forth and walk all around and about the earth ensuring stability and peace."

Zec 6:8 And then the interpreting angel at the command of the Lord Jesus Christ cried out to me saying "now look at those ministering spirits who have gone north; in the land of the north they have destroyed Israel's enemies, vengeance is now Mine."

14. Now let's resume our outline study of the book with the crowning of Joshua.

II. The Crowning Of Joshua > 6:9-15

NIV

Zec 6:9 The word of the LORD came to me:

Zec 6:10 "Take silver and gold from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah.

Zec 6:11 Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak.

Zec 6:12 Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from His place and build the temple of the LORD.

Zec 6:13 It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the High Priest and the King, for the two shall be One.'

Zec 6:14 The crown will be given to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of the LORD.

Zec 6:15 Those who are far away will come and help to build the temple of the LORD, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the LORD your God."

End Lesson