

Zechariah 01 – Introduction: God’s Inspiration for All

Zechariah – Introduction
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Zechariah: The Man

- Prophet and Priest
 - Father – Berechiah (Priest)
 - Grandfather – Iddo who returned in 536 B.C. under
 - Zerubbabel – Governor of this Persian province
 - Joshua – High Priest
- Name: Zechar-iah – Yahweh Remembers or Remember Yahweh

The Non-Martyr

- Many believe this Zechariah was the one Christ mentioned in Matthew and Luke (Mt. 23:29-36; Lk. 11:45-52)
 - However, Luke does not give Zechariah’s lineage
 - Matthew *appears* to do so but not in best source
 - Syriac Sinaiticus (Codex Syriac 1/Siglum A) – Oldest text
 - Written in latter 4th century in Greek
 - Zechariah’s lineage probably was not in Matthew (Scribal addition poss. for clarification (seldom clarifies))

Ministry of Restoration with God

- Zechariah's prophetic ministry lasted two years (520-518 B.C.) during Darius Hystaspis' (Darius I) reign
- His writings depicted the current & future restorations
 - Most Messianic of the Old Testament behind Isaiah
 - Most Eschatological of the Old Testament
 - People struggle interpreting his visions

Another Priest Zechariah

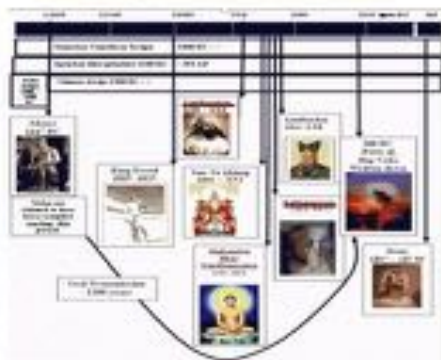
- There was a Zechariah, also a priest, who had a different ministry to the Jews (2Ch. 24:20-22)
 - Joash and nobles returned to worshipping the Asherim
 - Zechariah, son of Jehoiada (faithful), condemned them
 - He was stoned in the court (between Altar and Temple)
 - While dying he prayed for God to see and avenge him
 - Christ answered his prayer - Temple destroyed 70 A.D.

Axial Age – Religious Growth

Cultural Territories



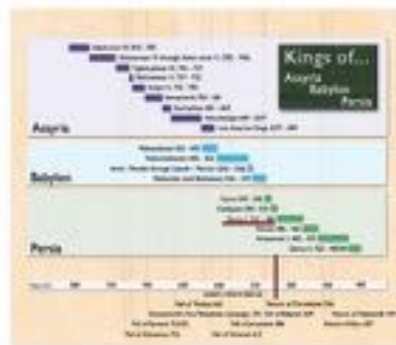
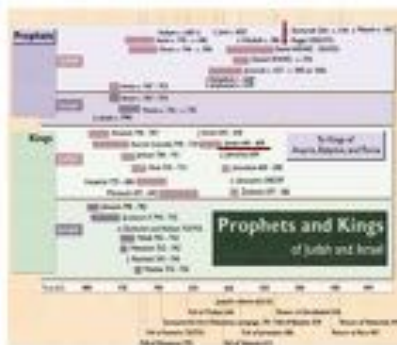
Religious Formations



History – Progression of Cultures

- Very Ancient Kingdoms (god-king)
- Ancient Kingdoms (king & priest) (Bronze Age)
- Axial Age (from ruler & priest to ruler-god) (Iron Age)
 - Four Kingdoms-Daniel: Babylon, Persia, Greco, Roman
 - Second mention of Hellenistic culture in Bible – Classical Age (city-state) before Alexander’s reign (ca. 9.13)

Biblical OT Orientation



Axial Age – Prophetic Age

Pre-Exilic Timeline



Post-Exilic Timeline



False or True: Lost or Saved

- Hebrews (later Israel) divided into two groups:
 - *False Jews* – sought salvation by Law (impossible) (Ro 3:19-20)
 - *True Jews* – received salvation by grace (Ro 15:5-6; Ps 51:16-17)
- Mankind divided into two groups (LEM):
 - *Lost* – Majority of people – live by works (2Th 2:9-12)
 - *Saved* – Minority – accepted Christ's sacrifice (Mt 2:13)

Perspective of Exodus

- Our study of Exodus established:
 - God selected the Hebrews to be His people
 - They learned of His holiness to teach other people
 - Tabernacle – Sinful man separated from Holy God-Veil
 - Sacrificial system pointed to innocent sacrifice for sin
 - Sinful man meets with holy God through the blood
 - Personal accountability rather than cultural acceptance

God Sent Them Prophets (Lk 11:31-32)

- The Prophets were God's message to Israel:
 - To remain steadfast in His grace
 - To return to Him when they had sinned
 - As demonstrations of His mercy and forgiveness
- Israel killed many of the prophets to remain in sin
- *Nation/Man* rejected God's witnesses: Abel – Zechariah

Hebrews/Israel Rejected God

- Rejection of God littered their historical landscape:
 - Wilderness Period – Molten Calf (Ex 32)
 - Judges Period – Personal holy relics and Levites (Jud 17-18)
 - United Kingdom – Solomon’s Wives & Idols (1K 11)
 - Divided Kingdom – Israel rejected God for self (1K 12, 25-31)
 - Divided Kingdom – Judah occasionally followed God (2Ch 28, 30-32)

Exiles – Punishment of Law

- Assyrian Exile – Israel (Northern Kingdom) Permanent
 - Jonah witness to Assyria (Jonah 1-4)
- Babylonian Exile – Judah (Southern Kingdom) 70 years
 - Babylonian Captivity – End of Theocracy, for now (Is 40:1-55:14)
 - Daniel, and others, witness to Eastern Gentiles about God’s coming Christ (Magi recognized the Christ)

Closer Look of Zechariah’s Time

- Jews came out of Babylon in three waves
 - 536 B.C. – Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:6)
 - Prophets: Haggai & Zechariah
 - Rebuild the Temple – Completed 516 B.C.
 - Esther and Purim (Esther 1-10)
 - 457 B.C. – Ezra (Ezra 7:10)
 - 444 B. C. – Nehemiah (Neh 1:10)
 - Rebuild Jerusalem’s wall

Temple Required to Teach Nations

- God required the Temple so Jews could continue to demonstrate God's mercy and forgiveness
 - They are the longest single unbroken culture - Scattered
 - They were a demonstration of God's forgiveness
 - Demonstrated that God's forgiveness transcultural as they are not a nation but a province of a Gentile nation
 - Salvation open to all who believe

Haggai the Temple Prophet

- People who saw the foundation of this temple cried because it was smaller than Solomon's Temple (Ez 3:10-13)
- Work on the Temple had stopped due to local opposition for nearly 18 years - Started 534-33 B.C.
- Haggai and Zechariah inspired the people to again build the Temple; completed in 516 B.C.

Zechariah's Ministry

- He is to show the purpose for:
 - The Temple
 - The Messiah
 - The Jews
- He begins contemporaneously and ends in the far future, even to our time just as Haggai had

Divisions of Zechariah

- Men only see the small, crudely built edifice rising from their efforts
- Zechariah tells them what God will do with both the Temple and the people
- He inspires them to finish

ZECHARIAH			
I. THE PROPHECY	II. THE VISIONS	III. THE MESSAGE	IV. THE MESSAGE
CHAPTERS 1-6 Zechariah's first vision of the Temple's future	CHAPTERS 7-8 Zechariah's second vision of the Temple's future	CHAPTERS 9-11 Zechariah's third vision of the Temple's future	CHAPTERS 12-14 Zechariah's fourth vision of the Temple's future
Zechariah's message to the people of Judah: God will rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem, and will bring the Messiah to the world.			

Many Get Lost in Its Imagery

- This text was written for contemporaneous people to read and understand the essence of God's vision
- With proper exegetical hermeneutical interpretation we should be able to understand its imagery to a greater degree since we have God's complete word
- Many read *into* this book by majoring on the minors

A Building Without a Roof

- Eschatology (End times) is like a roof on a building
 - Genesis is the foundation
 - Histories and prophets build the edifice
 - Christ adds interior grandeur revealing its true purpose
- Without a clear understanding of eschatology, a roof, all sorts of error creep into one's theology
- Zechariah focuses us on Messiah and His Second Coming