

The Gospel of Zechariah

Zechariah 12:1-9



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 prophecy (520) Zechariah prophecy (518) 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



Gospel of Zechariah (Themes)

Call to repentance

Return of YHWH

Restoration of the temple

The coming of the branch

Coming judgement on the nations

Day of the Lord (“on that day” - 16 times)



Zechariah 12:1-9

12¹ The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: **12²** “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. **12³** On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. **12⁴** On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. **12⁵** Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

12⁶ “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

12⁷ “And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. **12⁸** On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. **12⁹** And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.



Yahweh, who ...

- oracle - a burden
- Israel - united and ancient
- Yahweh - recap of creation
 - the heavens, the earth, the spirit of man
 - new heavens, new earth, regeneration and resurrection
 - apocalyptic

12¹ The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him:

(Zechariah 12:1 ESV)



a cup ... a heavy stone

- Jerusalem
 - representative
 - the Church - Revelation 21:2
 - And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
(ESV)
- cup of staggering
 - cup - a man's situation or burden
 - staggering - intoxicated
- siege
 - historical fall of Judah turned-on-its-head
- against Judah
 - whole nation will experience siege

12² “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. **12³** On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

(Zechariah 12:2-3 ESV)



a cup ... a heavy stone

- on that day
 - day of judgment against nations
 - day of triumph for God's people
- heavy stone
 - hurt themselves - on-its-head
- gather against
 - persecution for the Church
 - victory through Christ

12² “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. **12³** On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

(Zechariah 12:2-3 ESV)



every horse ... its rider

- on that day
 - apocalyptic
 - redemptive history complete
- horse and its rider
 - blindness - cannot advance
 - madness - cannot strategize
 - formidable weapon eliminated
- eyes open
 - Yahweh victorious
 - for the sake of the house of Judah
 - protects Judah (for the Church)
 - because of Judah (because of Christ)

12⁴ On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. **12⁵** Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

(Zechariah 12:4 ESV)



every horse ... its rider

- clans
 - the Church
- through Yahweh of the heavenly armies
 - from God
 - because of Christ
 - on our behalf
 - our God
- say to themselves
 - recognizing our God in our history

12⁴ On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. **12⁵** Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

(Zechariah 12:4 ESV)



blazing pot ... flaming torch

- on that day
- blazing pot/flaming torch
 - fire next to dry wood
 - encroaching enemy quickly consumed
- ancient threats
 - gone
- Jerusalem
 - inhabited - no longer desolate
 - repetition - it will be

12⁶ “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 12:6 ESV)



house of David

- salvation - rescue
- glory
 - house of David - davidic line
 - inhabitants of Jerusalem - capital of Judah
 - tents of Judah - the rest of the kingdom
 - all God's people
- feeblest
 - like David - like the king
- like God
 - house of David - Christ
 - angel of Yahweh - Christ
- before them
 - Christ - the firstfruits

12⁷ “And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. **12⁸** On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.

(Zechariah 12:7-8 ESV)



destroy

- all nations
 - destroyed
- what is destroyed?
 - sin
 - authority and power
 - death

12⁹ And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 12:9 ESV)



1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (ESV)