

The Gospel of Zechariah

Return to me





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 1:1-6 (ESV)

1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, **2** “The LORD was very angry with your fathers. **3** Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. **4** Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. **5** Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? **6** But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”



LORD of Hosts

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)

- Yahweh of the Heavenly Armies
 - power and dominion
 - holy and righteousness
 - judgment
- power and dominion

⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12:4-7 ESV)



LORD of Hosts

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)

- holy and righteousness

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” (Isaiah 6:1-7 ESV)



LORD of Hosts

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)

- Judgment

³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:30-31 ESV)



LORD of Hosts

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)

- ...he isn't safe

“Then he isn't safe?” said Lucy. “Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.” (The Lion, the witch, and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis, books.google.com, p. 80, *italics mine*)



Return to me

- reminds them of his anger
- reminds them of their fathers' sin
- reminds them of who he is
- calls them to return
 - שׁוּבוּ - shuvu - return
 - יִשׁוּבוּ - yashuvu - repent (Zech 1:6)

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)



Return to me

- how do the people need to return?
- have the sinned?
- if so, how?
- context - Ezra 4:1

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)



I will return to you

- is this a question of earning God's love?
- context - the covenant
- YHWH has brought them back
- how will YHWH return to them if they return to him?

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)



The Temple

3 Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 1:3 ESV)

- Zechariah and Haggai prophesy - the rebuilding resumes (Ezra 5:1-2)
- the Temple and YHWH's presence - leaves (Ezekiel 10)
- the HS Spirit in the OT
- HS in the Temple
- HS in Acts
- we are his temple (Ephesians 2:11-22)
- we must continually return to him - life of repentance



Do not be like your fathers

4 Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. (Zechariah 1:4 ESV)

- remember what they did
- remember they were warned by prophets
- remember their willful ignorance
- remember the consequence

5 Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?
(Zechariah 1:5 ESV)



Your fathers ... and the prophets

- their fathers are dead
 - but the memory of their sin and suffering is not
- the prophets are dead
 - but God's word that the faithfully preached is not
- their fathers ignored God's warnings
 - they experienced the consequences of their sin



So they repented ...

6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the LORD of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”
(Zechariah 1:6 ESV)

- repented
 - יָשׁוּבוּ - yashuvu - repent or turn
 - corporate repentance - true repentance or acknowledgement of responsibility?
 - individual vs the body
- *As YHWH of the Heavenly Armies purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.* (Zechariah 1:6b ESV, italicized edits mine)
 - acknowledged their sin
 - acknowledged his authority and power to discipline his people
 - true repentance?
- the Temple
 - the need for atonement
 - the need for redemption