

The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions





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 1:7-12 (ESV)

7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, **8** “I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. **9** Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ **10** So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ **11** And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’ **12** Then the angel of the LORD said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’



Zechariah 1:13-17 (ESV)

13 And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. **14** So the angel who talked with me said to me, ‘Cry out, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. **15** And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease; for while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster. **16** Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. **17** Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.’”



Eleventh Month ... in the night

7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, **8** “I saw in the night ... (Zechariah 1:7-8a ESV)

- the nature of vision and symbolic language
 - the imagination - what does it bring to mind
 - the context of the receiver
 - the biblical context - imagery, what does it remind us of
 - not one-for-one correlation
 - but within the whole of God's word
 - accessible - meditation and reflection
- 3 months later
- series of night visions (chs 1-6)
- prophetic-apocalyptic
- unknown mechanism - dreaming
- snapshots



...a man ...riding on a horse

- colors probably not significant
- myrtle trees
 - cover
 - point of observation
- Zechariah engaged in the vision
- Angel responds
- patrolling earth
 - vision
 - but angelic reality
 - behind the veil

... and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses. **9** Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ **10** So the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered, ‘These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.’ (Zechariah 1:8b-10 ESV)



angel of the LORD

- מַלְאָךְ־יְהוָה - Malach YHWH
 - root - “to be sent”
 - messenger, angel
 - formal title
 - pre-incarnate Christ?
- those patrolling report to the Messenger of YHWH
- how long ...
 - the son, interceding
 - reminding him of the covenant
- nations at peace, but God’s covenant people suffering judgment

11 And they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees, and said, ‘We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth remains at rest.’ **12** Then the angel of the LORD said, ‘O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, against which you have been angry these seventy years?’ (Zechariah 1:11-12 ESV)



gracious and comforting

13 And the LORD answered gracious and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. (Zechariah 1:13 ESV)

- gracious and comforting
 - concern of the angel
 - private conversation
 - angel as intermediary to Zechariah
 - perspective and knowledge of Zechariah
 - our vantage point
 - the comfort yet to come



The Gospel

- cry out
 - prophecy to the people
- jealous for ...
 - judgment against Jerusalem and Zion by the nations
 - greater than God's anger
 - nations at ease while Jerusalem suffers
 - discouragement (Ezra), drought (Haggai)
- returned with mercy
 - house shall be built ... providence and obedience
 - measuring line ... Jerusalem rebuilt
- overflow with prosperity
 - comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem
 - the now and the not yet
 - prosperity

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