

Zechariah

Introductory Matters



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Introductory Matters

1. Title
2. Authorship
3. Biography
4. Scope
5. Date
6. Audience
7. Place of writing



Introductory Matters

8. Occasion
9. Structure
10. Message
11. Purposes
12. Themes
13. Unique characteristics
14. Genre
15. Christ in Zechariah



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1. Title

- Named after the book's spokesman
- Hebrew: *Zekar-yah*
- LXX: *Zecharias*
- Latin: *Zecharias*
- English: Zechariah



Exodus 2:24

“So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”



Ezekiel 36:22

“Therefore, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Lord God says: “It is not for your sake, house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.””



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2. Authorship

- Zechariah (1:1)
- Hebrew & Christian tradition
- Zechariah 9–14?
 - ◆ Matt. 27:9-10?
 - ◆ Hellenistic or Maccabean eras?
 - ◆ Unity arguments



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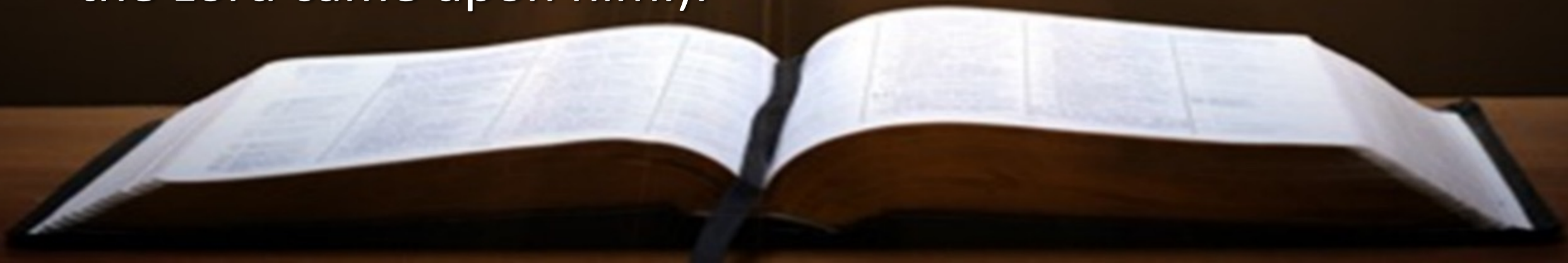
3. Biography

- Common name
- Son of *Berechiah* (1:1)
- Called into ministry as a youth (2:4)
- Born during Babylonian Captivity
- Taken to Israel in first return
- A priest
- Member of the Great Synagogue



Ezekiel 1:1-3

¹ “Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. ² (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s exile, ³ the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the Lord came upon him.)”



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4. Scope

<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURAL DATE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1:1	8th month, 2nd year of Darius	10 or 11/520 B.C.
1:7	24th day, 11th month, 2nd year of Darius	2/15/519 B.C.
7:1	4th day, 9th month, 4th year of Darius	12/17/518 B.C.

4. Scope

- 10 or 11/520 B.C. to 12/17/518 B.C.
- Zechariah 9–14?
 - ◆ Written 40 years later?
 - ◆ 520–470 B.C.
- Zechariah a contemporary of:
 - ◆ Prophet Haggai (Ezra 5:1; 6:14)
 - ◆ High Priest Joshua
 - ◆ Governor Zerubbabel



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5. Date

- Written immediately after the visions were given
- Zechariah 9–14?
 - ◆ 519–518 B.C.
 - ◆ 470–469 B.C.



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6. Audience

- Zerubbabel (Zech. 4:6-9)
- Joshua (Zech. 3:1; 6:9-15)
- Returnees (Zech. 7:4-7)
 - ◆ Ezra 5:1
 - ◆ Ezra 6:14





Daniel 1:1-2

“¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.”



Nebuchadnezzar's 3 sieges of Judah

	1	2	3
Year	605	597	586
Scripture	2 Kings 24:1; Dan.1:1	2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezek. 1:1-2	2 Kings 25:1-2, Ezek 33:21
Judah's king	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin	Zedekiah
Those taken	Daniel & some princes	Ezekiel & majority 10k	Remnant captured, Jerusalem & Temple destroyed

Three Returns

	DATE	DURATION	PERSIAN KING	JEWISH LEADER	SCRIPTURE	PURPOSE	NUMBER OF RETURNEES
1st return	538–515 B.C.	23 years	Cyrus (Isa 44:28–45:1)	Zerubbabel	Ezra 1–6; Isaiah 44:28	Rebuilding the temple	50,000
2nd return	458–457 B.C.	2 years	Artaxerxes	Ezra	Ezra 7–10	Adorning of the temple and reforming the people	2,000
3rd return	444–432 B.C.	8 years	Artaxerxes	Nehemiah	Nehemiah	Rebuilding the wall	

Cyrus Cylinder



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7. Place of Writing

- Temple standing
- Zech. 1:16; 3:1–4:9; 6:9-15; 8:9, 20-23; 14:16-19
- Jerusalem



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Statue & Stone

2. A Statue and a Stone



Statue is destroyed by a great stone, which represents Jesus Christ



HEAD
GOLD

WORLD POWER
BABYLON
606-539

CHEST AND ARMS
SILVER

WORLD POWER
PERSIA
539-331

STOMACH AND THIGHS
BRASS

WORLD POWER
GREECE
331-323

LEGS AND FEET
IRON & CLAY

WORLD POWER
ROME
322 B.C. — A.D. 476
FUTURE

Identification of the Four Kingdoms



Vision in Daniel: Ch. 2

Vision in Ch. 7

Vision in Ch. 8

IDENTIFICATION

BABYLON 2:48

HEAD of GOLD

LION

CHEST and ARMS of SILVER

BEAR

RAM

MEDO-PERSIA 8:20

BELLY and THIGHS of BRONZE

LEOPARD

GOAT

GREECE 8:21

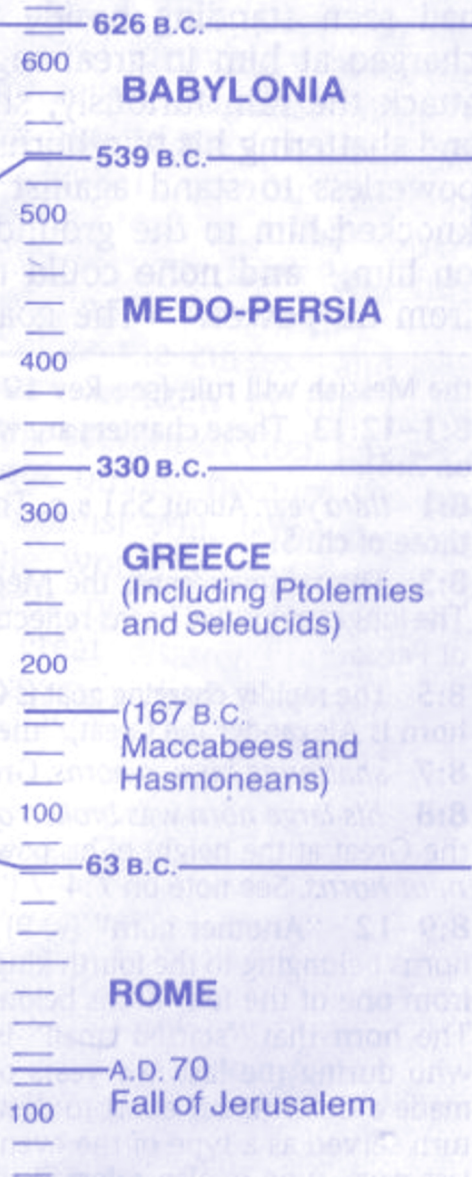
LEGS of IRON

TERRIFYING and FRIGHTENING BEAST

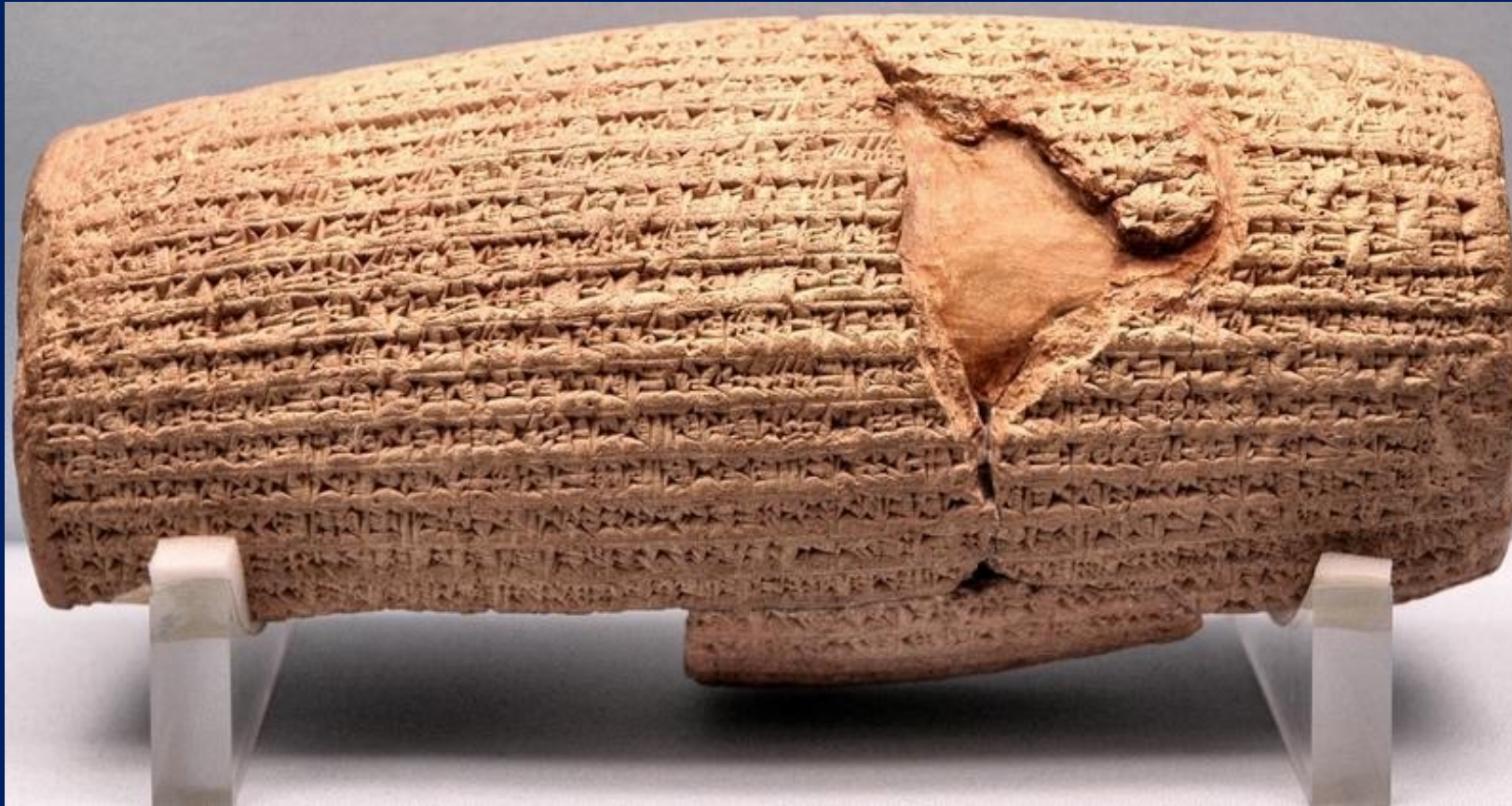
ROME

FEET of CLAY

Chronology of Major Empires in Daniel



Cyrus Cylinder



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ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

1. Solomon's pre-exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Ezek. 40-48)

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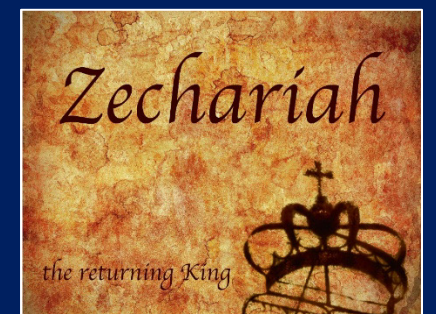
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538 B.C.	Cyrus' decree	520–518 B.C.	Ministries of Zechariah & Haggai
536 B.C.	Temple foundation laid	519 B.C.	Darius confirms Cyrus' decree
534 B.C.	Temple building interrupted	-----	Resumption of Temple building
-----	Temple project stalled for 15 years	516 B.C.	Temple completed



8. Occasion

- 538 B.C. – Cyrus' decree
- 536 B.C. – Temple foundation laid
- 534 B.C. – Temple building interrupted
- Temple project stalled for 15 years
- 520–518 B.C. – Ministries of Zechariah & Haggai
- 519 B.C. – Darius confirmation of Cyrus' decree
- Resumption of Temple building
- 516 B.C. – Temple completed



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9. Structure

- I. Introductory call to repentance (1:1-6)
- II. Eight-night visions (1:7–6:15)
- III. Question and answers about fasting (7–8)
- IV. Two burdens (9–14)

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II. Eight Night Visions

(1:7–6:15)

1. Riders & horses among the myrtle trees (1:7-17)
 2. Four horns & four craftsmen (1:18-21)
 3. Man with the measuring line (2)
 4. Cleansing of the High Priest Joshua (3)
 5. Lampstand & olive tree (4)
 6. Flying scroll (5:1-4)
 7. Woman in the basket (5:5-11)
 8. Four chariots (6:1-8)
- Conclusion: crowning of Joshua (6:9-15)



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III. Questions & Answers Concerning Fasting

(7–8)

A. Question (7:1-3)

B. Four divine answers (7:4–8:23)

1. Condemnation of empty ritualism (7:4-7)
2. Condemnation of past covenant failure (7:8-14)
3. Prediction of Jerusalem's restoration (8:1-17)
4. Prediction of future blessing (8:18-23)



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IV. Two Burdens

(9–14)

- A. Israel's postponed deliverance due to her rejection of her Messiah (9–11)
- B. Israel's future deliverance due to her acceptance of her Messiah (12–14)



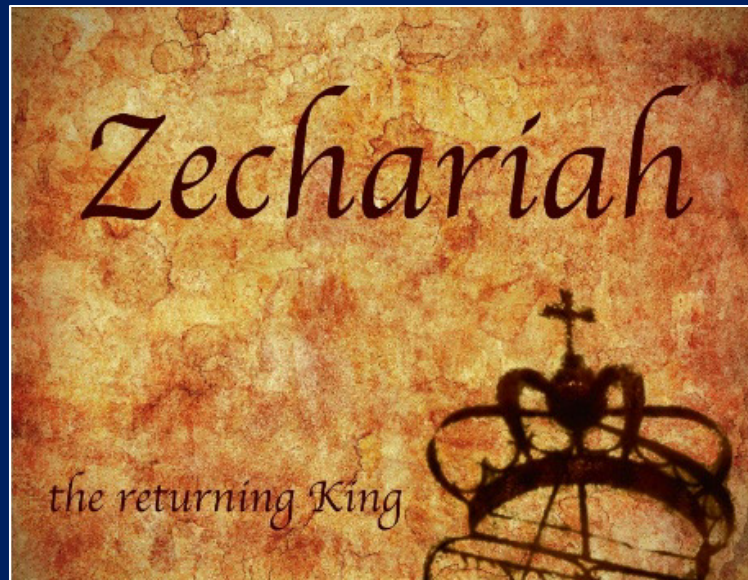
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10. Message

The Messiah's future restoration of Israel and millennial reign is depicted through various divine visions, responses, and burdens, and these are given to induce hope and obedience among the beleaguered remnant.



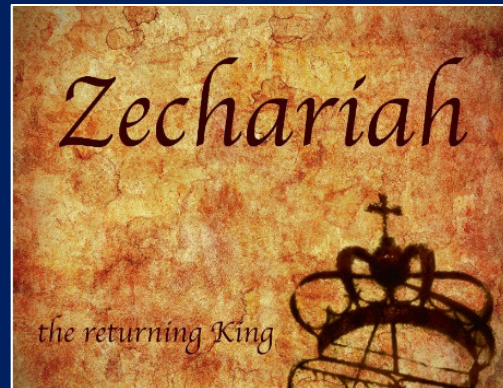
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11. Purposes

- A. To encourage the returnees to rebuild the Temple
- B. To provide eschatological hope in the challenging post-exilic world
- C. To prepare the returnees for Temple worship
- D. To exhort the returnees toward covenant obedience



Haggai vs. Zechariah

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

Exhortation

Encouragement

More concrete

More abstract

Concise

Expanded

Present concern

Future concern

Take part!

Take heart!

Older activist

Younger missionary

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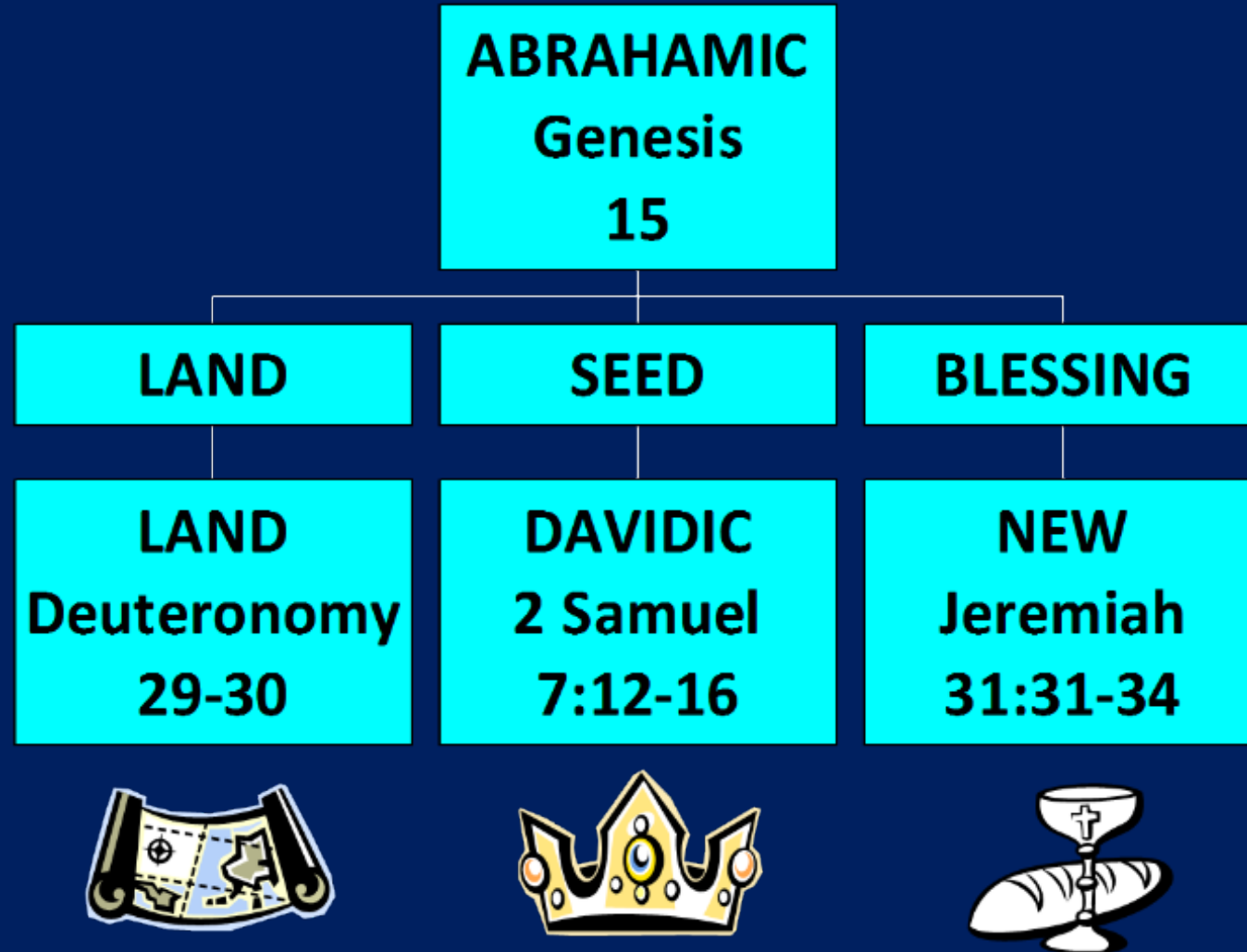


12.Themes

- A. 1st and 2nd advents
- B. Temple
- C. Israel's Eschatology
- D. Israel's elect status
- E. Covenant renewal



Abrahamic Covenant



Unconditional covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)

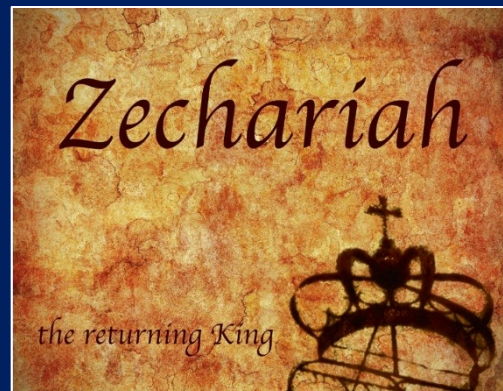
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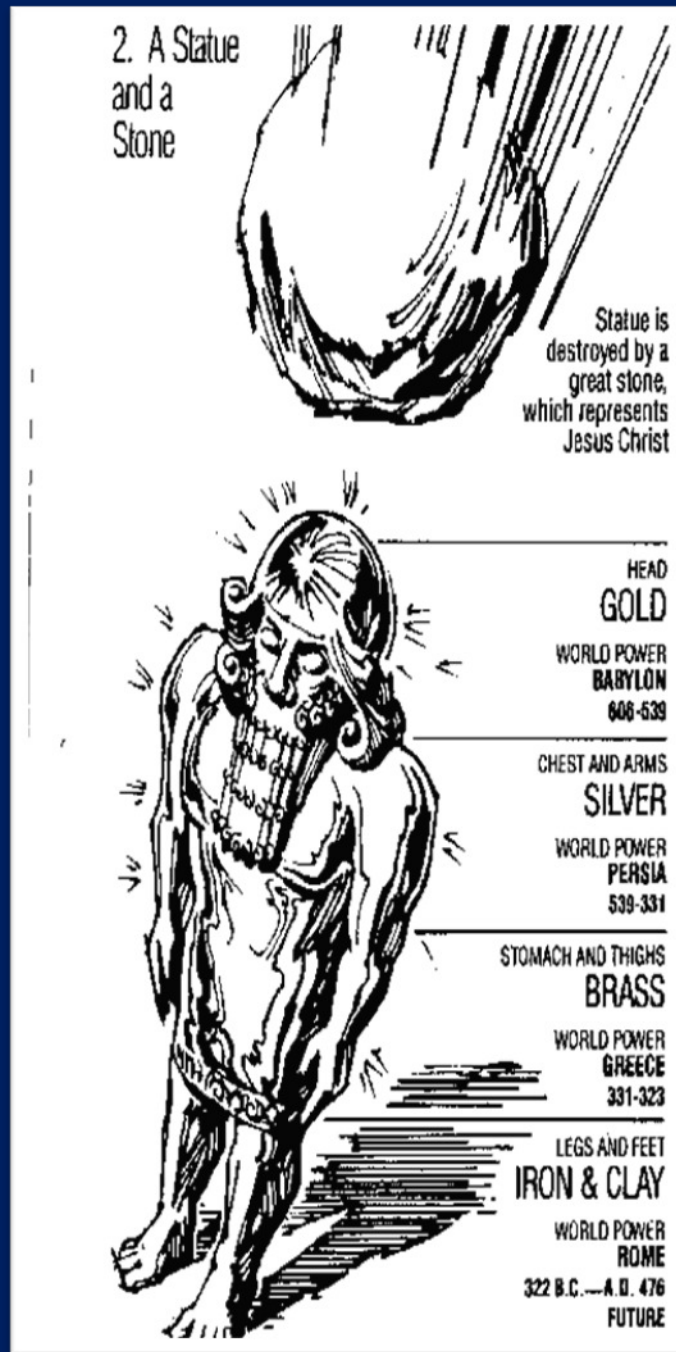
13. Unique Characteristics

- Interpreting angel
- Longest minor prophet
- Messianic prophecies
- Multiplicity of literary styles
- Times of the Gentiles
- Israel's Eschatology
- Two burdens focused upon in the passion narratives
- Third most alluded to book in the Apocalypse
- Imputation (3:1-5)
- Summation of prophetic themes





Statue & Stone



Identification of the Four Kingdoms



Vision in Daniel: Ch. 2

Vision in Ch. 7

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IDENTIFICATION

BABYLON 2:48

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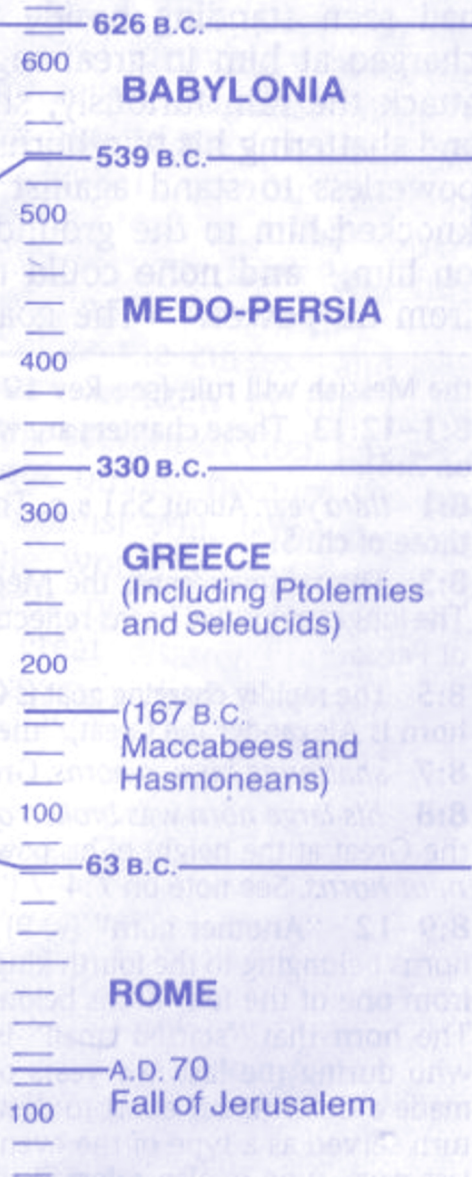
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J. Dwight Pentecost

“Daniel,” in *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1985), 1323.

“Apocalyptic literature in the Bible has several characteristics: (1) In apocalyptic literature a person who received God’s truths in visions recorded what he saw. (2) Apocalyptic literature makes extensive use of symbols or signs. (3) Such literature normally gives revelation concerning God’s program for the future of His people Israel. (4) Prose was usually employed in apocalyptic literature, rather than poetic style which was normal in most prophetic literature.”



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“Daniel,” in *Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1985), 1323.

“In addition to Daniel and Revelation, apocalyptic literature is found in Ezekiel 37–48 and Zechariah 1:7–7:8. In interpreting visions, symbols, and signs in apocalyptic literature, one is seldom left to his own ingenuity to discover the truth. In most instances an examination of the context or comparison with the parallel biblical passages provides the Scriptures’ own interpretation of the visions or the symbols employed. Apocalyptic literature then demands a careful comparison of Scripture with Scripture to arrive at a correct understanding of the revelation being given.”

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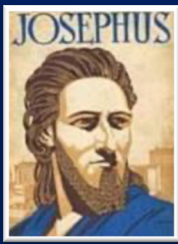
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The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

1. A man of verifiable history
2. A man of fulfilled prophecy
3. A man of predictive prophecy
4. A man of unimpeachable morality
5. A man of profound teaching
6. A man of authentic miracles
7. A man of bodily resurrection





Josephus

Antiquities 18.3.3

“About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”

OT Prophecies About Christ

Prophecy	Scripture	Years in Advance
Manner of Birth	Isaiah 7:14	700 years
Place of Birth	Micah 5:2	700 years
Nationality	Numbers 24:17	1400 years
Tribe	Genesis 49:10	1800 years
Time of & Response to His Messiahship	Dan. 9:25-26	600 years

OT Prophecies About Christ

Prophecy	Scripture	Years in Advance
Crucified Between Thieves	Isaiah 53:9	700 years
Pierced	Isaiah 53:5	700 years
No Broken Bones	Psalms 22:17	1000 years
Gamble for His Clothing	Psalms 22:18	1000 years
Buried in Rich Man's Tomb	Isaiah 53:9	700 years

Luke 24:27, 44

“²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures...⁴⁴ Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”



John 5:39, 46

“³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”



Acts 17:1–3

¹ Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”



1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“³ For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”



Christ in Zechariah

GENERAL

- the angel of the Lord (3:1-2)
- the righteous branch (3:8; 6:12-13)
- the servant (3:8)
- the stone with seven eyes (3:9)
- the King-Priest (6:13)
- the cornerstone, tent peg, and the bow of battle (10:4)



Christ in Zechariah

FIRST ADVENT

- the humble king riding on a donkey (9:9-10; Matt 21:1-8; John 12:14-16)
- the rejected good shepherd sold for thirty pieces of silver (11:4-13; Matt 26:14-16; 27:9-10)
- the one the Jews pierced (12:10; John 19:37; 20:24-27)
- the smitten good shepherd (13:7)



Christ in Zechariah

SECOND ADVENT

- the one who will be accepted by Israel (12:10–13:1; Rom 11:26)
- the one who cleanses Israel (13:1)
- the coming judge (14)
- the destroyer of Israel's enemies (14:3, 12-15; Rev 19:11-16)
- the one who will split the Mount of Olives (14:4)
- the one who will reign from Jerusalem (14:9, 16; Rev 20:4-6)



Romans 11:25-26

“²⁵ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.’”



Zechariah 14:2-3

“² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.³ Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.”



Zechariah 14:16-18

“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.”



Isaiah 2:2-3

“Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.³ And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”



Revelation 20:7-9

“⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.





Robert Thomas

Four Views on the Book of Revelation, page 207.

“At the end of the Millennium that city will be Satan’s prime objective with his rebel army, because Israel will be a leader among the nations.”



Conclusion

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