



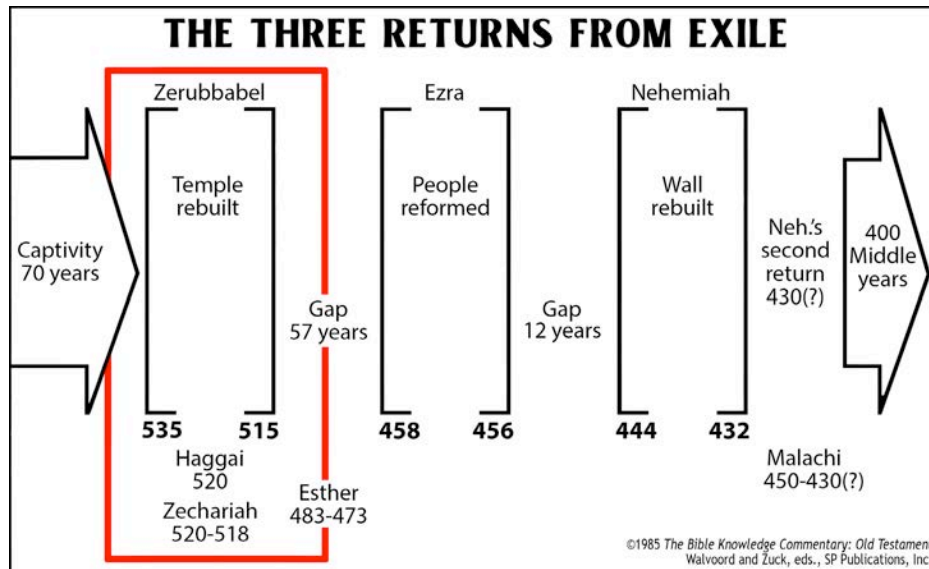
COMING UP... NOV 10: Esther NOV 17: Nehemiah NOV 24: Malachi CLASS ENDS

ZECHARIAH SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Renewal"

THE TIMES ...

Almost 50,000 exiles returned to Jerusalem in 538 BC with a desire to resettle the land and rebuild the Temple
 But opposition and apathy halted the work for 15-16 years
 Following Haggai's exhortations in 520 BC, they've just started building again
 But God is just as concerned that their hearts—as well as His Temple—are spiritually rebuilt and renewed
 So Zechariah is sent to call them to a fresh start with God ...
 And to encourage them that He'll be among them, working behind the scenes to bring His Word and His will to pass

THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON



THE BASICS ...

Who: Zechariah ("YHWH remembers") **When:** postexilic (520-460? BC) **Where:** to the resettled Babylonian exiles
Why: "God would preserve His remnant from the gentile threat and would ultimately restore Israel's kingdom by sending the Messiah." –Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: A fresh start

Turn To Me (1:1-6)

God's people had been living for themselves, not for Him, the past 15-16 years
 Unless their hearts were right with Him, they couldn't really walk with Him
 He reminded them of their history
 They needed to settle the issue ... again ... of "Who's the boss?" of their lives
 They needed a fresh start with God

Walk With Me (1:7–6:15)

- Eight night visions (1:7–6:8)
 - A: Circumstances of peace (#1)
 - B: His power to overcome obstacles (#2, #3)
 - C: His leaders and His Spirit to rebuild (#4, #5)

B': His power to overcome obstacles (#6, #7)

A': Circumstances of peace (#8)

Joshua is crowned (6:9-15)

Be encouraged

Trust Me and depend on Me

My power can bring peace

My power can overcome obstacles yours can't

My power brings cleansing and change

My power is inexhaustible

I am with you

Reflect Me (7–8)

Love Me from your heart (7:1-7)

Their traditions had become like religious "light switches"

They couldn't worship Him one minute and forget Him the next

They couldn't serve Him one minute ...

They couldn't "honor" Him one minute ...

They couldn't "love" Him one minute ...

They were just going through the motions

Love your neighbor from the heart (7:8-14)

To do justly (act with justice)

To love mercy (compassion)

And to walk humbly with your God ... all the time

A work day's behavior should look just like a Sabbath day's behavior

Live in such a way that others want what you have (8)

To know Me

To have an intimate relationship with Me

To live in My presence

To experience My blessing

My Kingdom Is Coming (9–14)

Messiah's rejection (9–11)

His first advent

Messiah's triumph (12–14)

His second advent

Summary

God's people have been living for themselves for the past 15-16 years; they need encouragement and hope for a fresh start as they return to His work

Turn to Me (1:1-6)

Walk with Me (1:7–6:15)

Reflect Me (7–8)

My kingdom is coming (9–14)

APPLICATION: A fresh start

Turn To Him

What's your spiritual temperature tonight?

Are you feeling a little apathetic?

Does your walk resemble a "light switch?"

Are you just going through the motions?

Are you just living for yourself?

It's not too late!

Make tomorrow morning a fresh start
 Turn to Him in the Word and prayer

Walk With Him

Be encouraged
 Trust Me and depend on Me
 My power can bring peace
 My power can overcome obstacles yours can't
 My power brings cleansing and change
 My power is inexhaustible
 I am with you

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Are you discouraged? | God is with you |
| Are you surrounded? | God will fight for you |
| Lacking safety/security? | God will protect you |
| Accused by adversary? | God is your Advocate |
| Heavy responsibility? | God is inexhaustible |
| Is evil everywhere? | God's Word fights evil |
| Will evil ever end? | God will purge all evil |
| Will order ever prevail? | God will rule the earth |

Reflect Him

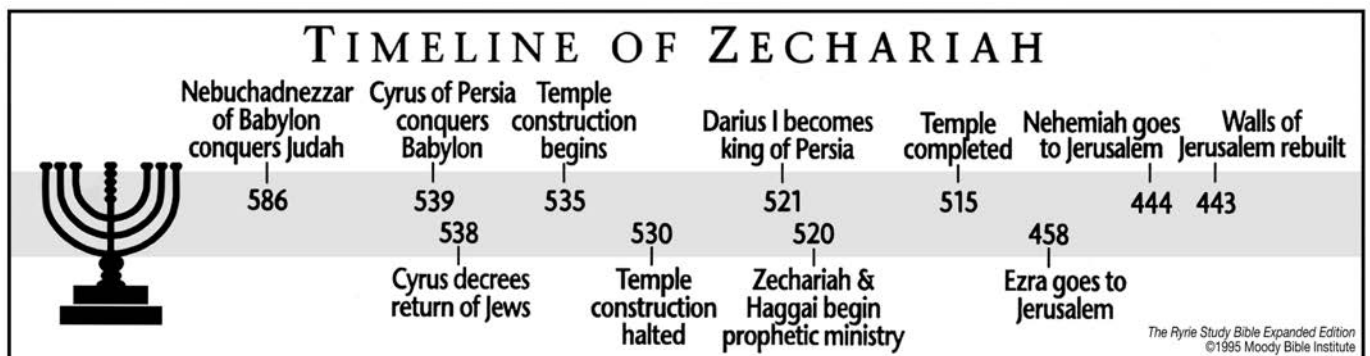
Are you loving Him from your heart?
 Living relationship, not a lifeless religion
 Are you loving your neighbor from the heart?
 Justice, mercy and humility
 Are you living in such a way that others want what you have?
 In grace, our walk with God is always a series of new beginnings and fresh starts!



“Zechariah” by James Tissot

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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CONTACT: BillE@christchapelbc.org **ADMIN:** LaurieE@christchapelbc.org
PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>
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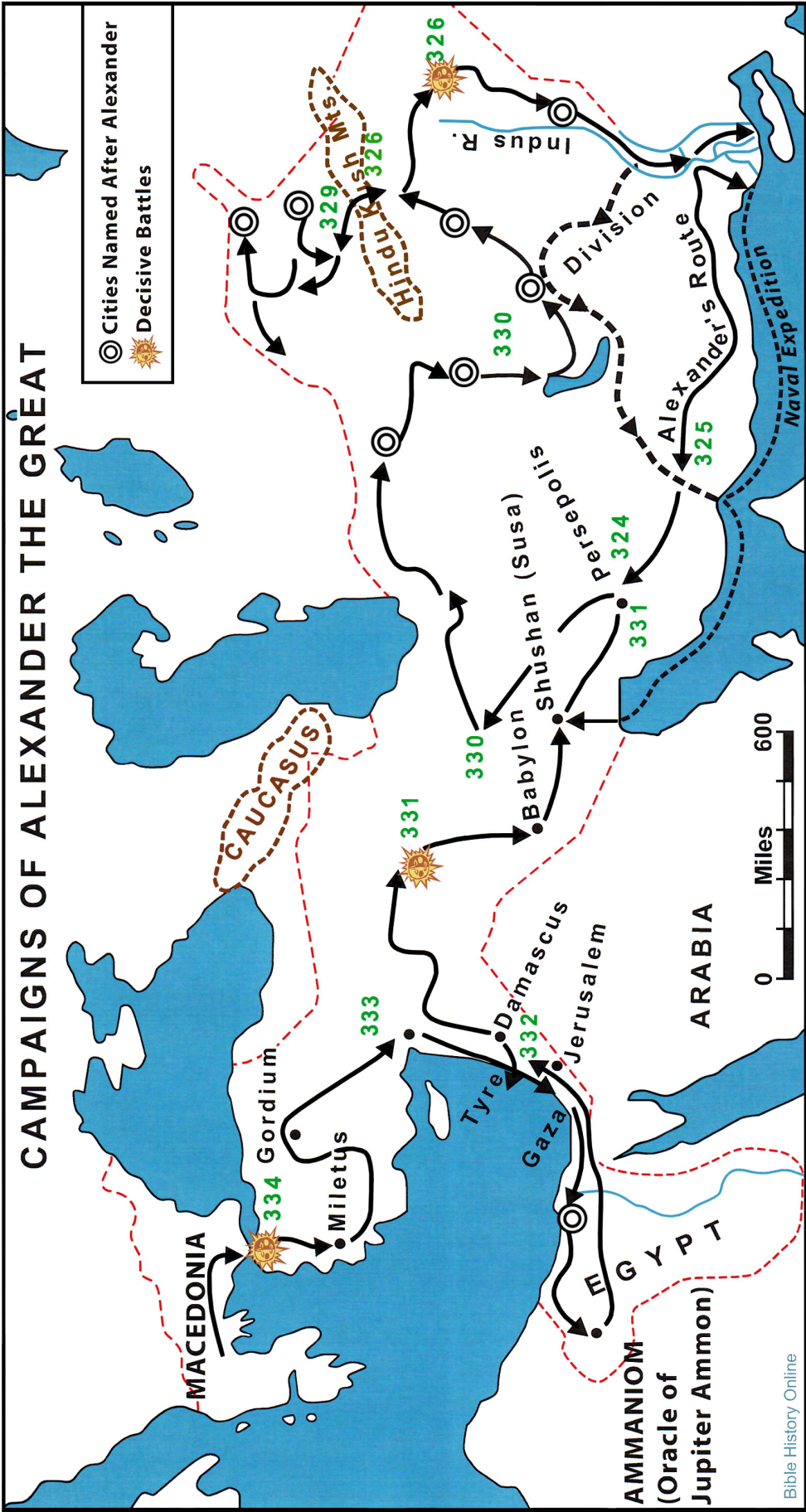
ZECHARIAH'S VISIONS

| <i>Vision</i> | <i>Reference</i> | <i>Significance</i> |
|--|------------------|---|
| Zechariah sees messengers reporting to God that the surrounding nations that have oppressed Judah are living in careless and sinful ease. | 1:7-17 | Israel was asking, "Why isn't God punishing the wicked?" Wicked nations may prosper, but not forever. God will bring upon them the judgment they deserve. |
| Zechariah sees four horns, representing the four world powers that oppressed and scattered the people of Judah and Israel. Then he sees four blacksmiths who will throw down the horns. | 1:18-21 | God will do what he promised. After the evil nations have carried out his will in punishing his people, God will destroy these nations for their sin. |
| Zechariah sees a man measuring the city of Jerusalem. The city will one day be full of people, and God himself will be a wall around the city. | 2:1-13 | The city will be restored in God's future Kingdom. God will keep his promise to protect his people. |
| Zechariah sees Jeshua the high priest standing before God. Jeshua's filthy clothes are exchanged for fine new clothes; Satan's accusations against him are rejected by God. | 3:1-10 | The story of Jeshua the high priest pictures how the filthy clothes of sin are replaced with the pure linen of God's righteousness. Christ has taken our clothes of sin and replaced them with God's righteousness. (See Ephesians 4:24; 1 John 1:9.) |
| Zechariah sees a lampstand that is continually kept burning by an unlimited reservoir of oil. This picture reminds the people that it is only through God's Spirit that they will succeed, not by their own might and resources. | 4:1-14 | The Spirit of God is given without measure. Human effort does not make a difference. The work of God is not accomplished in human strength. |
| Zechariah sees a flying scroll, which represents God's curse. | 5:1-4 | By God's word and Spirit, every person will be judged. The individual's sin is the focus here, not the sins of the nation. God's curse is a symbol of destruction; all sin will be judged and removed. |
| Zechariah sees a vision of a woman in a basket. She represents the wickedness of the nations. The angel packed the woman back into the basket and sent her back to Babylon. | 5:5-11 | Sins of the individual were judged in the last vision (5:1-4); now sin is being removed from society. Sin has to be eradicated in order to clean up the nation and the individual. |
| Zechariah sees a vision of four horses and chariots. The horses represent God's judgment on the world—one is sent north, the direction from which most of Judah's enemies came. The other horses are patrolling the world, ready to execute judgment at God's command. | 6:1-8 | Judgment will come upon those who oppress God's people—it will come in God's time and at his command. |

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Zechariah's Eight Night Visions

| Vision | Reference | Meaning |
|--|-----------|---|
| The Red-horse Rider among the Myrtles | 1:7-17 | God's anger against the nations and blessing on restored Israel |
| The Four Horns and the Four Craftsmen | 1:18-21 | God's judgment on the nations that afflict Israel |
| The Surveyor with a Measuring Line | Chapter 2 | God's future blessing on restored Israel |
| The Cleansing and Crowning of Joshua the High Priest | Chapter 3 | Israel's future cleansing from sin and reinstatement as a priestly nation |
| The Golden Lampstand and the Two Olive Trees | Chapter 4 | Israel as the light to the nations under Messiah, the King-Priest |
| The Flying Scroll | 5:1-4 | The severity and totality of divine judgment on individual Israelites |
| The Woman in the Ephah | 5:5-11 | The removal of national Israel's sin of rebellion against God |
| The Four Chariots | 6:1-8 | Divine judgment on Gentile nations |



Alexander the Great

The name "Alexander" or "Alexander the Great," referring to the Macedonian king, never appears in the Bible. However, the prophets Daniel and **Zechariah** wrote prophecies concerning Greece and Alexander's Macedonian Empire. The non-eschatological prophecies in Daniel have proved so reliable that some critics have tried to post-date his writing, even though copious literary, historical and biblical factors point to a date of writing in the sixth century B.C. **Zechariah**, writing sometime between 520 and 470 B.C., was also well before Alexander's rise to power.

Alexander's legacy was quickly made, briefly lived, and has lasted to this day. Born in 356 B.C. and dying 32 years later, he only reigned for 13 years—the vast majority of which he spent outside of his home state of Macedon. His legendary conquest of nearly the entire known world resulted in one of the largest empires in ancient history. Alexander overthrew the entire Persian Empire: Asia Minor, Persia, Egypt and everything in between, including Israel. Alexander died undefeated in battle but without a clear heir, which led to the division of his empire among four of his generals.

Although Alexander's empire split, the Hellenism he spread continued. Greek became the universal language, and Greek culture was either required or encouraged in all parts of the divided empire. Israel changed hands between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms. Israel later gained its independence from 167-63 B.C., a time referred to as the Hasmonean Period and recorded in the apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees. The end of this period was marked by the Roman conquest of Jerusalem in 63 B.C.

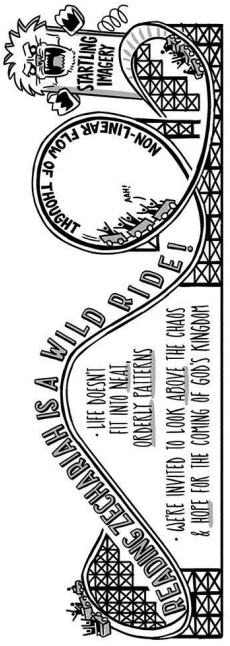
In **Zechariah**, Alexander's destruction of nations was described between 520 B.C. and 470 B.C., many, many years before the Macedonian's conquests.

Zechariah tells of the destruction of Tyre: *"For Tyre built herself a fortress and piled up silver like dust, and gold like the mire of the streets. Behold, the Lord will dispossess her and cast her wealth into the sea; And she will be consumed with fire."*

Tyre was a city that was extremely worried about its riches. It even moved its location to strengthen its position from invaders. The city was a fortress in itself, situated on a small island separated by half a kilometer of the sea from the mainland. Shalmaneser, King of Assyria tried to destroy Tyre, but he failed. Nebuchadnezzar too attempted and failed as well.

When Alexander arrived at Tyre, he already knew that the Assyrians had tried to conquer it for five years but failed, and also that the Babylonians had tried as well for 13 years, but failed. Alexander ordered his men to collect stone and other materials from Tyre's original site and build a road that led to Tyre's island city. Alexander had the city burned and its riches plundered.

Bible History Online



ZACHARIAH



9-11 IMAGES THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM, PT. 1

9-10 THE COMING KING...

...BECOMES THE REJECTED SHEPHERD 11

LEADERS OF ISRAEL

PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

NEW JERUSALEM

RELOVE, JERUSALEM-- YOUR KING COMES! HE'S RIGHTEOUS, HUMBLE, AND RIDES A DONKEY (9:9) | WILL THIS REJECTION LAST FOREVER? No!

12-14 IMAGES THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM, PT. 2

GOD'S JUSTICE COMES! EVIL AMONG THE NATIONS (SEE JOSH. 3 & ZEPH. 3:3-5)

GOD TAKES OUT A SPIKE OF REFERENCE ON HIS PEOPLE (2:10)

WE'RE SORRY WE REJECTED YOU

ALL NATIONS

NEVER LIVE

7-8 CONCLUSION

SHOULD WE STOP GROWING? IS GOD'S KINGDOM COMING SOON?

ONLY IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL TO THE COVENANT (8:17)

QUESTION REVERSED: WILL YOU BECOME PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S KINGDOM?

GOD'S VISION 6:9-15

SYMBOL OF FUTURE MESSIANIC PRIEST-KING, BUT ONLY IF THIS GENERATION OBEYS GOD.

1:7-6 ZACHARIAH'S DREAM-VISIONS

WARNING: THESE ARE BIZARRE (LIKE YOUR DREAMS!)

THE IDEA OF GOD SPEAKING IN DREAMS IS ROOTED IN GENESIS (JACOB, ch20; JOSEPH, ch37; PHAROAH, ch41)

THEY EXPLAIN CURRENT EVENTS @ 90 POINT TO THE FUTURE.

1:7-8 YOUR VISIONS, FOUR DARKNESS

1:8-17 GOD'S MESSAGE ON PATROL

THE WORLD IS AT WAR (1:11)

70-YEAR CYCLE IS ALMOST OVER, IS NOW THE TIME FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM? (UNANSWERED)

THE NORTH LAND IS AT RISK (1:15)

FOUR HORSEMEN ON PATROL 6:1-8

1:1-6 INTRODUCTION

TURN BACK TO EARLIER PROPHECIES

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4 JOSHUA, THE HIGH PRIEST

3:1-10 IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD YOU WILL LEAD HIS PEOPLE... AND BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE FUTURE MESSIANIC KING (3:7-9)

ISRAEL'S SIN REMOVED

MESSIANIC KINGDOM WILL ONLY COME IF THE PEOPLE ARE FAITHFUL

5 SUCCESS WILL COME ONLY IF THEY DEPEND ON GOD'S SPIRIT

ZACHARIAH, TOTAL HEIR OF DAVID 4:1-14

3 JERUSALEM IS MEASURED

2:1-13 LET US BEAT THEM (2:14)

THE NEW JERUSALEM A BEACON TO THE NATIONS, FORGED BY THE SCAPTURE

6 THE LIVING SCROLL 5:1-14

2 YOUR VISIONS, FOUR DARKNESSES

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FOUR HORSEMEN ON PATROL 6:1-8

REFLECTIONS ON ISRAEL'S PAST SIN & EXILE

SYMBOL OF ISRAEL'S REBELLION CALLED TO BARBOLAN

7 CAPTAIN IN A BASKET 5:5-11

1 YOUR VISIONS, FOUR DARKNESSES

1:8-17 GOD'S MESSAGE ON PATROL

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