

## Zechariah 2

A timeline of events surrounding Zechariah:

539 BC Babylon is overthrown by Cyrus the Persian.

538 BC King Cyrus orders the return of the exiles. Ezra leads them to Jerusalem

536 BC Daniel's ministry ends/Temple reconstruction begins

530 BC Temple work was halted

520 BC Zechariah and Haggai called as prophets/ work on the Temple resumes

516 BC Temple is completed

479 BC Esther becomes Queen of Persia/473 Feast of Purim

469 BC Socrates is born

458 BC Ezra returns to Jerusalem with more exiles

445 BC Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to build the wall/goes back to Babylon in 433 BC and returns again to Jerusalem in 432 BC

430 BC Malachi begins his ministry

2:1 Vision #3 – Remember the first vision spoke of the lack of peace in Jerusalem while the world was at peace, the opposite of how things should be. The second vision spoke of the judgment on those who fought Israel. Now the divine architect is ready to begin the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The measuring rod was also seen in Ezekiel 40:3 and may be the background for Revelation 11:1. Some think the man in this verse is the remnant that was eager to build the wall before the temple for practical reasons of security, depending on their ability rather than God. (Haggai 1:2) Others see this man as the angel in verse 3 and that this is all about future blessing.

2-5 The angel encourages them that God is going to be their security. They don't need to focus on the wall (though Nehemiah will build one shortly after). They needed to trust God and put worship before everything else. Can we relate? Like most prophecies, this speaks on several levels. It speaks to the discouraged souls to have hope and faith, it assures them of God's presence with them giving them security, and to the ultimate fulfillment in the Millennial Kingdom. For "its glory within" see Revelation 22:5. Wall of fire – Exodus 13:21 Also see Isaiah 26:1 The third vision focuses on God being their security as they build the temple and the whole city.

6-7 The Lord calls the people to believe His word and come from Babylon and Persia back to Jerusalem by faith. There was an impression among the people that God had abandoned the covenant. They had thought that the presence of God in the Temple would assure that Jerusalem would never be defeated, and they were wrong. They had forgotten that God promised to send them into exile if they were not faithful to the covenant. Now God is encouraging them that they are still precious to Him, the apple of His eye. Do we go through similar discouragement when we cling to false ideas demanding God keep us from harm?

8 Many Jews thought God abandoned the covenant since He let Jerusalem fall. Instead, God was being faithful to His word to discipline them. We can cling to false ideas and misinterpret what He is doing. Regardless of your circumstances, you are

precious to Him! The pupil is the most sensitive part of your body. Literally "After glory (the vision?) the Lord sent me." Scribes changed from "my" eye to "his" eye.

9 Speaks of how God would protect the apple of His eye with a motion of His hand. (Isaiah 19:16) Military officers command their armies with a motion of the hand. As they plundered Egypt when they left, so they would plunder Persia. (Exodus 12:36 Ezekiel 30:10) When it came to pass it would validate Zechariah's prophecies. Nehemiah 2:7-8; Ezra 1:6-11

10 This has to be about Jesus! Yet it is also a multi fulfilled verse in that it is OT language for being in the Temple (Exodus 29:42-46), NT promise (John 1:14), and Millennium promise (Ezekiel 43:1-7). Isaiah 35:10

11 The salvation of many Gentiles (not all) through Messiah Yeshua! (Genesis 12:3; Micah 4:2) Notice the wording - The Lord sends the One who is speaking but the One who is speaking is YHWH. God in the flesh among us! Commentators say that can't be the case, the speaker must have changed. Why? Scholars have gotten so used to trying to find fault with Scripture when it supernaturally predicts the clear Gospel message that even good commentators fall into that trap. Zion is to rejoice because Messiah/YHWH will live among them. The Jew and Gentile will be one. Eph 2:13-16 For the Jews of that day, the sense was of expanded influence and favor of the Gentile world, which was the opposite of the scorn they had received.

12 Judah will remain special to the Lord. God calls Israel the "holy land" only here in Scripture. The language here is that of the original covenant, "inherit as His portion" and "choose" reminding them that the covenant is still in effect. Isaiah 14:1 With such a great future before them, they were to go forward with the Temple with their whole heart.

13 Habakkuk 2:20 This was all way more than they could comprehend. Looking at the ruins and hearing all these promises seemed too amazing. They were exhorted to stand in awe of what God was going to do. How much more should we be in awe of the salvation we have received through Jesus who made us His holy temple!

Let all mortal flesh keep  
silence,  
And with fear and trembling  
stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly  
minded,  
For with blessing in His  
hand,  
Christ our God to earth  
descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of  
heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the  
way,

As the Light of light  
descendeth  
From the realms of endless  
day,  
That the powers of hell may  
vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged  
seraph;  
Cherubim with sleepless  
eye,  
Veil their faces to the  
Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they  
cry,

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Lord Most High.  
Amen.

From St. James Liturgy