



HOPE IS KINDLED

A Study in the Book of Zechariah

2 Peter 1:19-21

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

9 Week Agenda

Week 1 – June 1

“Return to Me”

Zechariah 1:1-6

Week 2 – June 8

Visions Part I

“Jerusalem Chosen”

Zechariah 1:7-3:10

Week 3 – June 15

Visions Part II

“By My Spirit”

Zechariah 4-5

Week 4 – June 22

Visions Part III

“A Kingly Priest”

Zechariah 6

Week 5 – June 29

“Fasting to Feasting”

Zechariah 7-8

Week Off – July 6

9 Week Agenda

Week 6 – July 13

**The 1st Oracle Part I
“Prisoners of Hope”
Zechariah 9-10**

Week 7 – July 20

**The 1st Oracle Part II
“A Doomed Flock”
Zechariah 11**

Week 8 – June 27

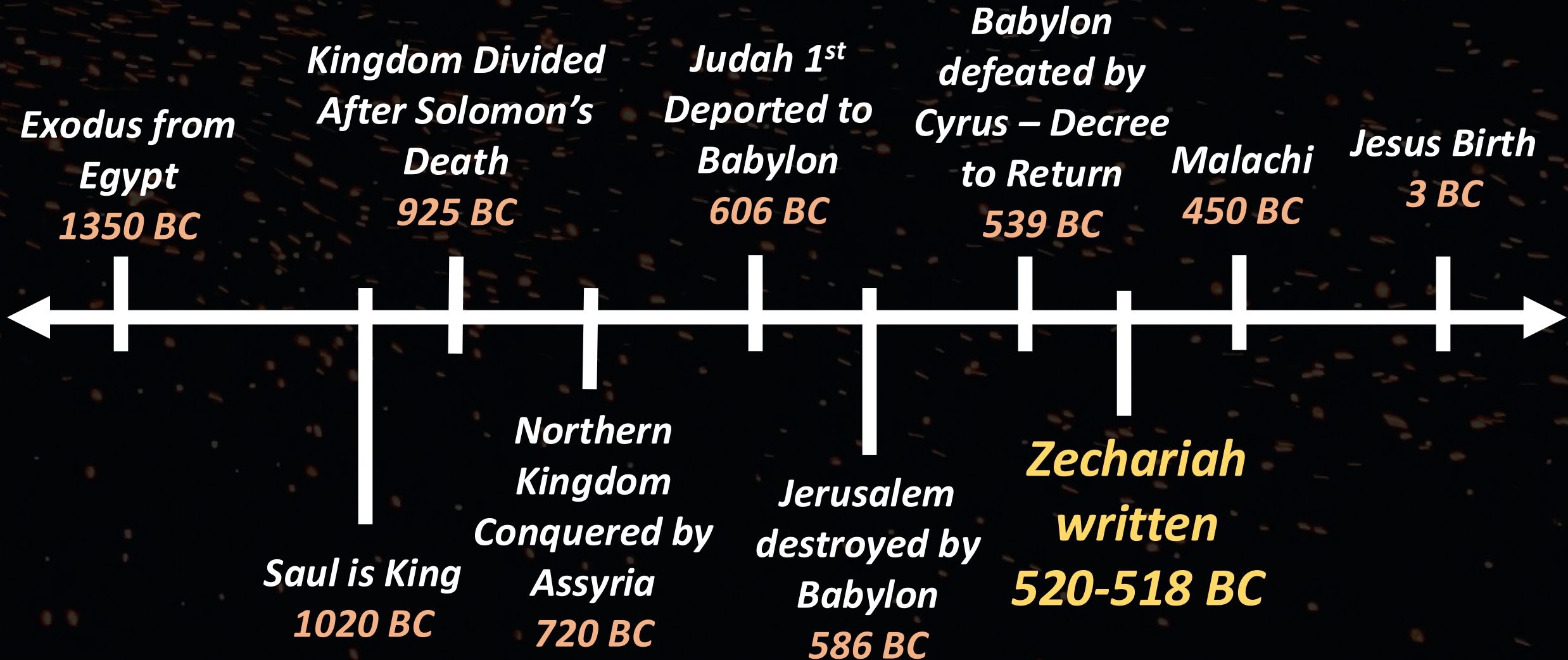
**The 2nd Oracle Part I
“O Glorious Day”
Zechariah 12-13**

Week 9 – Aug 3

**The 2nd Oracle Part II
“From Plunder to Paradise”
Zechariah 14**

Zechariah in History

(Not to Scale, Dates are Estimates)



Immediate Historical Context

- **Post Exilic – 520 BC from Jerusalem**
- **It's been ~19 years since the Jews return to Jerusalem**
- **During the Reign of the Persian King Darius I (3rd king of Achaemenid Dynasty)**
- **The Kingdoms of the world are at peace**
 - **After Babylon, before Greece**
- **Temple construction is started but halted**

Audience and Major Characters

- The Israelites who returned from captivity in Babylon
- Haggai the Prophet (corresponding Prophet)
- Zerubbabel the Governor
 - Descended from David (1 Chron 3)
 - In both Matthew's and Luke's Genealogies of Jesus
- Joshua (Jeshua) the High Priest

Prophetic Timeline with Haggai

- Haggai 1:1 – 2nd Year, 6th Month
- Haggai 2:1 – 7th Month
- Zechariah 1:1 – 8th Month
- Haggai 2:10 – 9th Month
- Haggai 2:20 – 9th Month
- Zechariah 1:7 (Visions) – 11th Month
- Zechariah 7:1 – 4th Year

Ezra Summarized

- **Cyrus proclamation that the Israelites should return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple – only 42,360 respond**
- **They return, build an Alter, celebrate Sukkot, collect materials and resources, and lay the foundation**
 - **Some weep when remembering the grandeur of Solomon's Temple**

Ezra Summarized

- Adversaries from Northern Israel (Samaritans) come against them to frustrate their efforts
- Adversaries pen a letter of false allegations to the new Persian King (Artaxerxes) and he orders the work to stop

The State of the Immediate Hearers

- To the Israelite Remnant who returned with great fervor and excitement from captivity
- They have become deflated and distracted
 - They are few in number
 - They face stiff opposition externally
 - They face discouragement from within
- They have settled into the rigors everyday life and are now neglecting the Temple

Why Was it Written to Them?

- It is a call to a spiritually disappointed and dispassionate people to get busy with the things of God – The building *HIS TEMPLE*
 - Assurance that God is with them for their good and intends to dwell with them in safety –
THEIR KINGDOM WORK IS NOT IN VAIN
 - Warnings to live according to God's ways
 - Promises of judgement for their enemies

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Why Was it Written for Us?

- It is a call to a spiritually disappointed and dispassionate people to get busy with the things of God – The building *HIS CHURCH*
 - Assurance that God is with us for our good and intends to dwell with us in safety – OUR KINGDOM WORK IS NOT IN VAIN
 - Warnings to live according to God's ways
 - Promises of judgement for our enemies

Zechariah Outline

2nd Year of Darius – Word and Visions

- **The First Word – 1:1-1:6**
- **Eight Visions – 1:7-6:8**
 - 1. Horsemen**
 - 2. Horns and Craftsman**
 - 3. Measuring Line and Jerusalem**
 - 4. Joshua the High Priest**
 - 5. Lampstand and Olive Trees**
 - 6. Flying Scroll**
 - 7. Woman in a Basket**
 - 8. Four Chariots**
- **Priest on His Throne (Performance) – 6:9-6:15**

4th Year of Darius – Word and Oracles

- **Instruction and Warning (fasting) – 7**
- **Encouragement and Hope (feasting) – 8**
- **The First Oracle – 9-11**
- **The Second Oracle – 12-14**

Correspondence with Revelation

- A host Angel interpreting visions for the prophet
- Judgement over Israel's enemies
- For Jerusalem, things get much worse before they get much better
- The Day of the Lord
- A Remnant including Gentiles survives

Correspondence with Revelation

- **A measuring line over Jerusalem (Rev 11)**
- **Satan as the accuser (Rev 12)**
- **Seven Eyes (Stone before Joshua, Lamb – Rev 5)**
- **Lampstand and Two Olive Trees (Rev 11)**
- **A Scroll that brings a curse on the whole land (Rev 5)**
- **A Woman who is wickedness in Babylon (Rev 17)**
- **Red, Black, White and Dappled Horses (Rev 6)**

Correspondence with Revelation

- God will appear over them with lightning at the trumpet call (Rev 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16)
- God returning with a great earthquake
- A great battle for the nations against Israel (Rev 17)
- Supernatural defeat of a great army of the nations (Rev 19)
- Worldwide rule of God on Earth (Rev 20)

“Return to Me”

Zechariah Chapter 1:1-6

WEEK 1 – June 1

The First Word – Zech 1:1-6

- Prophets Identity, lineage
- God's Identity and name

LORD of Hosts

- Used 5 times in these 6 verses
- Used 14 time in Haggai and 48 times in Zechariah
- LORD = Yahweh – God's nearness
- Hosts = Armies – God's Power

The First Word – Zech 1:1-6

- Prophets Identity, lineage
- God's Identity and name
- God's Call – "Return to me and I will return to you"
- Negative Example – the Israelites who went into captivity, their fathers
- Assurance His Word WILL come to pass
- Repent now or repent later – your choice

Optional Homework

- Read Haggai and Zechariah in the order they were given....
 - Haggai 1:1-15
 - Haggai 2:1-9
 - Zechariah 1:1-6
 - Haggai 2:10-23
 - Zechariah - Remainder

NEXT WEEK

WEEK 2 – June 8

Visions Part I

“Jerusalem Chosen”

Zechariah 1:7-3:10