
ZECHARIAH
GOD'S RESCUE ♦ OUR RESPONSE

Zechariah:

Return to the Lord!

Zech. 1:1-10; Phil. 1:27

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Why study the book of Zechariah?

- It is a timeless snapshot of the life of a Believer!
  - The cycle of call, response, struggle, and call to return

- Where are you in that journey?
  - Close and joyful? Wandering or apathetic?

- God still calls all Believers to return to Him and live our lives in focused dedication to Him and His direction!

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Zechariah: Date and Author

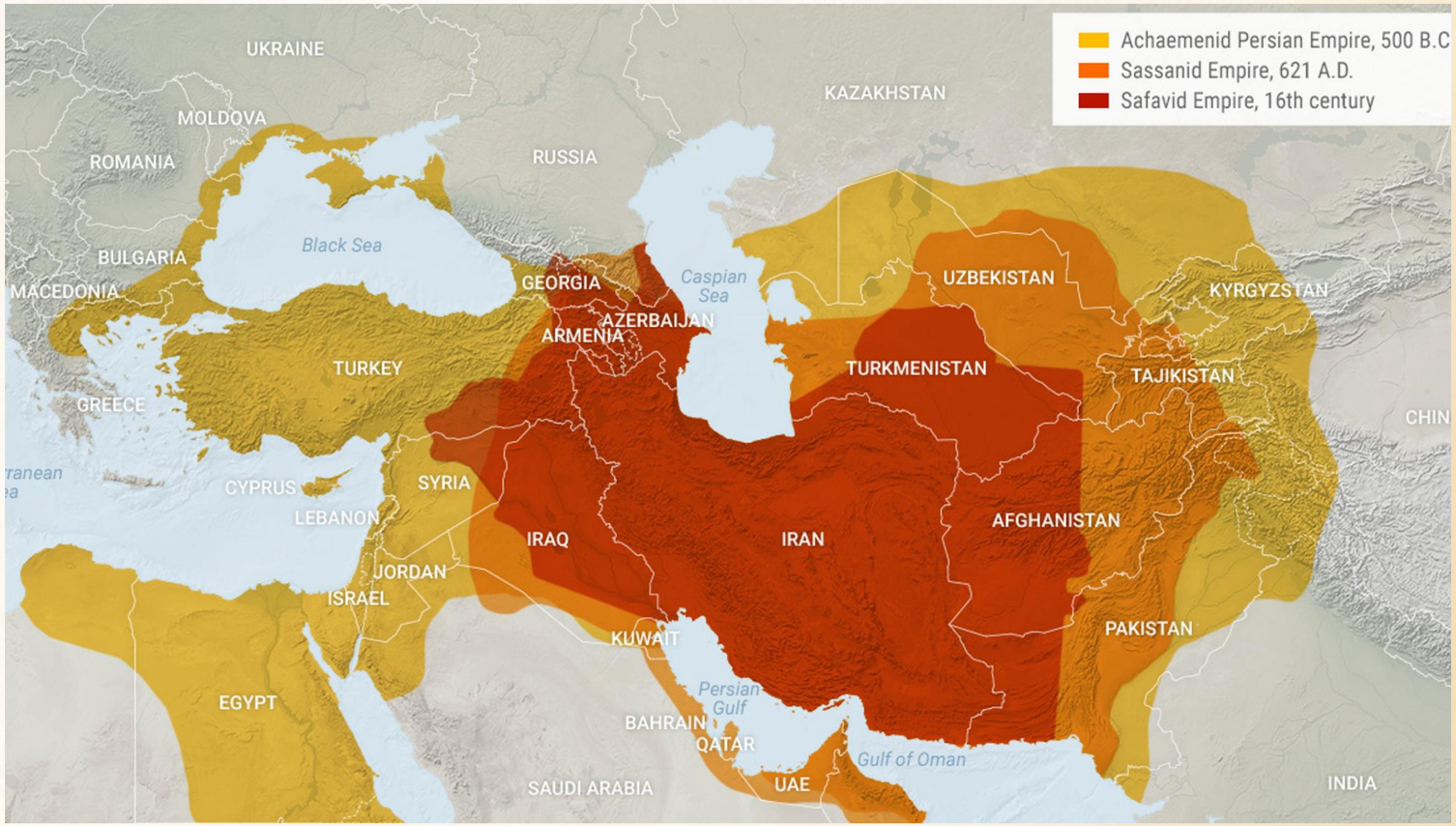
- **Date** of writing: "*2nd year of king Darius*"
  - Darius ruled from 522-486 BC so = **520 BC**

- **Author**: "*Zechariah son of Berekiah son of Iddo*"
  - **Zechariah**: "Yahweh has remembered"
  - Contemporary of Haggai and Malachi
    - Ez. 5:1, 6:14; Neh. 12:1, 4, 16

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Zechariah: Location and Background

- **Location:** The Persian Empire
- **Background**
  - God uses foreign nations to discipline Israel
  - 2 Ki. 17:13-14; 2 Chr. 36:15-18



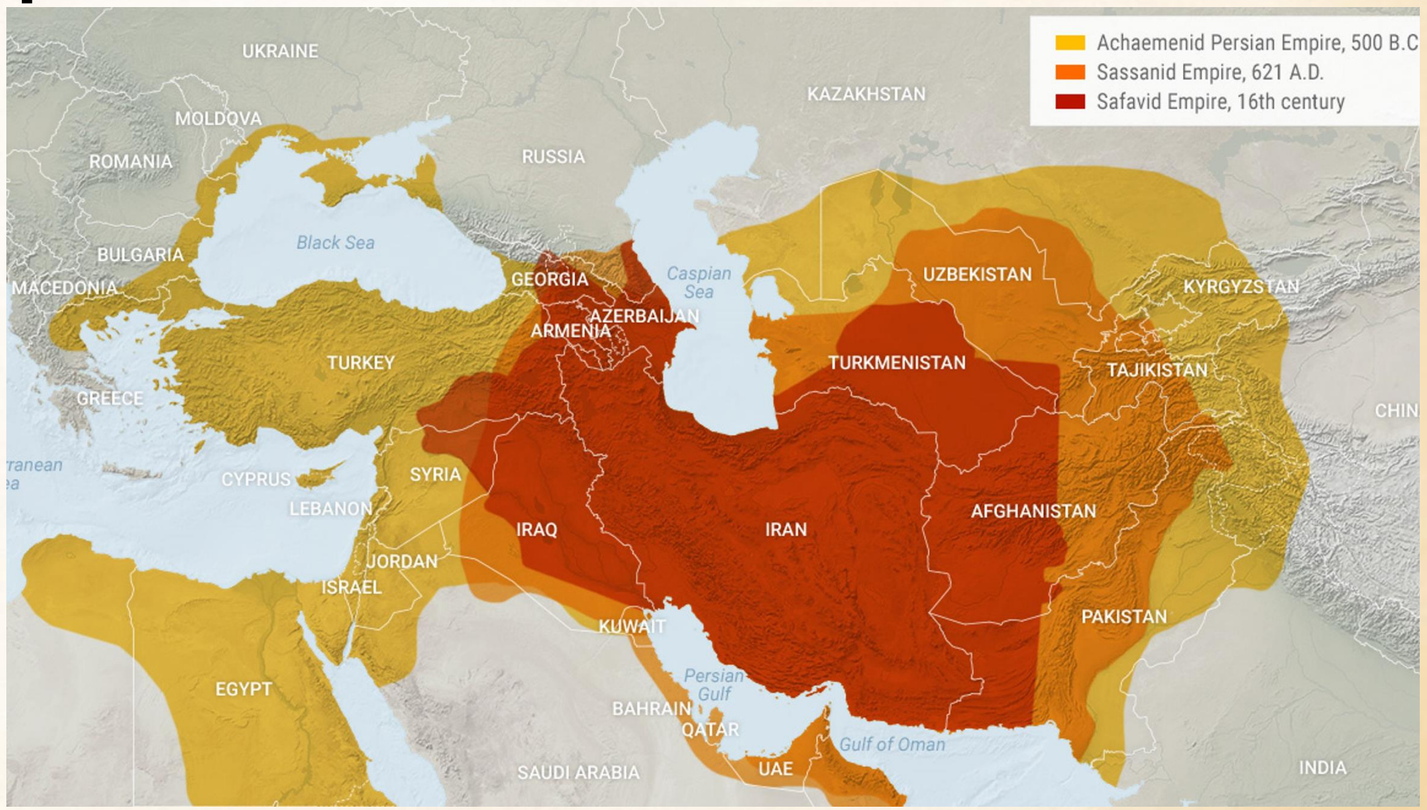
Cornerstone Church

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Zechariah: Location and Background

- God allows His people to experience life outside His protection and provision:

- Assyria 722 BC
- Babylon 597 BC
- Persian 539 BC
- Greece 332 BC
- Rome 63 BC



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Zechariah: Original Audience

- The returned remnant is disappointed & discouraged
  - Jer. 31:31-33; 33:14-16 Ez. 34:23-24; 36:24-28
  - They are disillusioned/hopeless, apathetic/lifeless.
- Zechariah's message is 3-fold:
  - Encourage the Oppressed
  - Warn the Oppressor
  - Call the remnant to persevere in God's truths

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Zechariah: 3 Major Themes

- **(1) Repent and Return to God**

  "Repent" = a complete turnaround preceded by listening and paying attention to God's Word!

  - (a) Your forefathers didn't… (1:1-6)
  - (b) Will *YOU*? (7:8-10, 8:14-17,19)
  - (c) Be patient with the Lord's hand (2:13, 4:9-10)
    - Just as He determined to bring disaster, so has He determined to Restore (8:14-15)

Zechariah: 3 Major Themes

- **(2) Live your Life Fully for the Lord**
  - (a) Rebuild the Temple *AND* your spiritual Health!
  - Zechariah's unusual visions communicate:
    - God's protection over Israel
    - God's judgment of enemy nations/people
    - Restoration of Jerusalem
    - Cleansing of impurity/sanctification
    - Hope in an ultimate, final Savior!

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ”

Phil. 1:27

Zechariah: 3 Major Themes

- **(3) God will ultimately prevail!**
  - (a) God will return to live with His people
    - Near future: rebuilt Temple, renewed passion, improved economy (Zech. 7:12-14)
    - Distant future: deliverance from enemy nations, a coming Shepherd King, & Yahweh enthroned and worshipped (Zech. 12:1-14, 14:1-21)

Prayer Focus

- **(1)** Thank God for His provision, protection and promises to engage His people! What a joy to praise and worship the 'God who remembers' His people!
- (2) Where is God calling *you* to repent, and what will a 'complete turnabout' look like in your life?
- (3) Take stock of your 'spiritual health' … are you zealous and engaged? Apathetic and disinterested? Where is God calling you to grow?