

Zechariah: Timing & Background

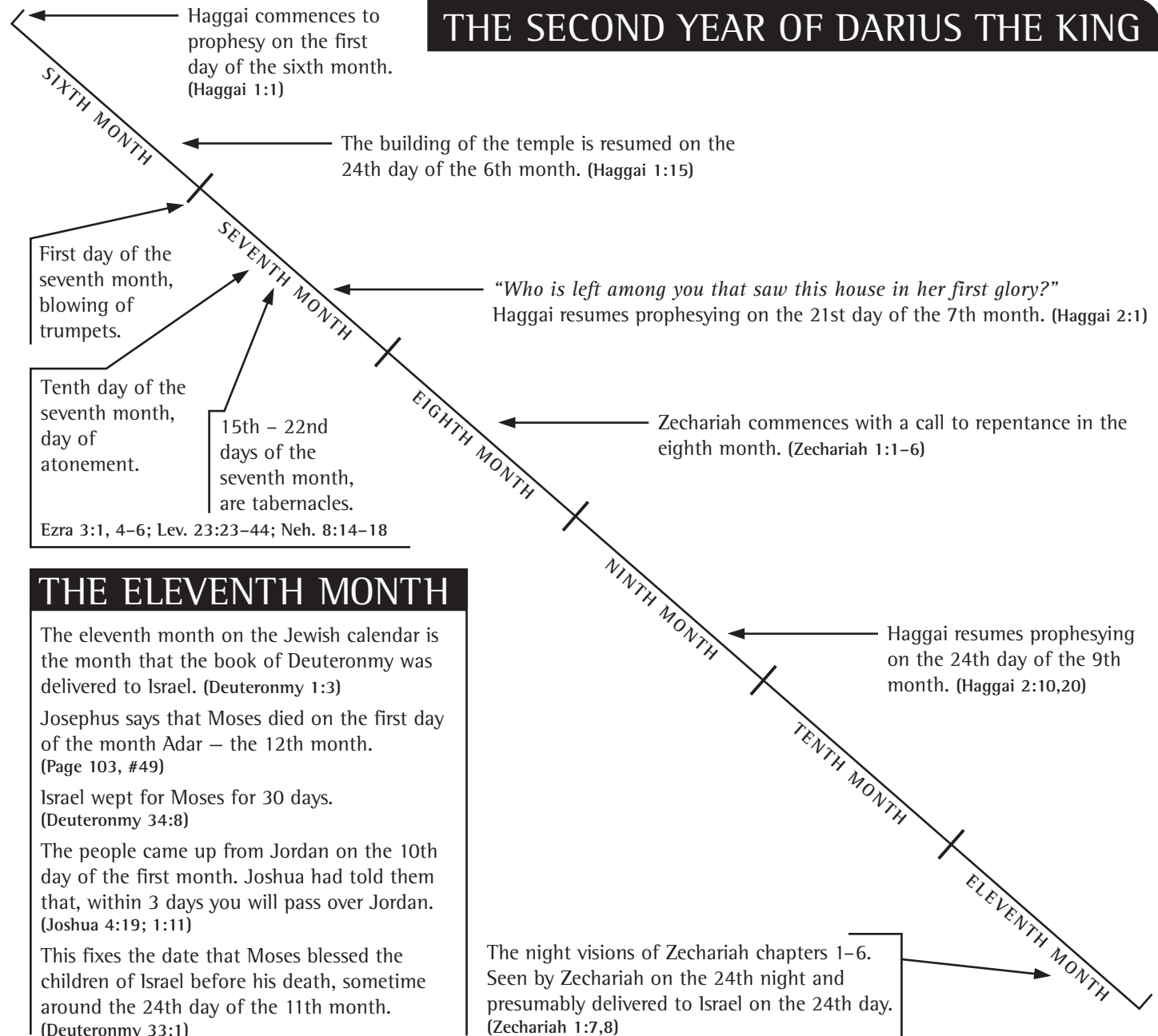
"Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

"Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.

"Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them."

Ezra 4:24 – 5:2

THE SECOND YEAR OF DARIUS THE KING



THE ELEVENTH MONTH

The eleventh month on the Jewish calendar is the month that the book of Deuteronomy was delivered to Israel. (Deuteronomy 1:3)

Josephus says that Moses died on the first day of the month Adar – the 12th month. (Page 103, #49)

Israel wept for Moses for 30 days. (Deuteronomy 34:8)

The people came up from Jordan on the 10th day of the first month. Joshua had told them that, within 3 days you will pass over Jordan. (Joshua 4:19; 1:11)

This fixes the date that Moses blessed the children of Israel before his death, sometime around the 24th day of the 11th month. (Deuteronomy 33:1)

Zechariah: Introduction & Background

“But thou, O Lord, shall endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.

“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

“For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

“So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.

“When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.”

Psalms 102:12–16

“Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet and Zechariah son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem, inspired by the God of Israel.”

(Ezra 5:1 – JPS)

“So the elders of the Jews progressed in the building, urged on by the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah son of Iddo, and they brought the building to completion under the aegis of the God of Israel and by the order of Cyrus and Darius and King Artaxerxes of Persia.”

(Ezra 6:14 – JPS)

Yahweh remembered his people and blessed them in the appointed time.

זְכַרְיָה Zechariah

Gesenius: Whom Yahweh remembers.

בִּרְכֵּיהוּ Berechiah

Gesenius: Whom Yahweh blessed.

עִדּוֹא Iddo

Gesenius: Timely

Youngs: Festal, Opportune.

Iddo returned to Zion with Zerubbabel and Jeshua. (Nehemiah 12:1,4)

Root: עֲדָר

Root: Davidson: To number, compute, especially time.

Gesenius: To number, count, compute, especially days, time.

The Chaldee word “time” in Daniel 7:25 is derived from the same root word. The Hebrew equivalent “Moed” is used in Daniel 12:7. This is the same word “set time” used in Psalm 102:13.

INTERESTING NOTE:

Haggai and Zechariah worked closely together in the truth. Tradition associates them with musical worship in the restored temple. In the Septuagint Psalms 146, 147 and 148 have the heading: Hallelujah of Haggai and Zechariah. Psalm 147 is well suited to the time of the return of the exiles. Both use the term “Yahweh of Hosts” extensively.

Zechariah: I will return unto you Zechariah 1:3

“And they departed from the mount of the Lord three days’ journey: and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them in the three days’ journey, to search out a resting place for them.

And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.

And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.

And when it rested, he said, Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.”

Numbers 10:33–36

The Jews were building a new temple, but the glory and ark of the covenant and cherubim were gone. Would the glory return?

“Therefore thus saith the Lord; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the Lord of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.”

(Zechariah 1:16)

The ark and glory depart.

“And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband. And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.”

(1 Samuel 4:21–22)

The first temple built, the glory and ark enter the holy place.

“And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

“For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

“And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.

“There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,

“So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.”

(1 Kings 8:6–8, 10,11)

The glory departs.

• Ezekiel 10:18–19; 11:22,23 – The Glory of God and the Cherubim leave the temple.

The Glory and Cherubim return.

“Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.”

(Ezekiel 43:1–2)

The Lord Jesus gone before to prepare the kingdom for us.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”

(John 14:2)

Zechariah: Messiah the Theme of Zechariah

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

(Zechariah 9:9)

DIRECT QUOTATIONS FROM ZECHARIAH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Zechariah 9:9 – Thy king cometh unto thee...

- Matthew 21:4–5; John 12:14–15

Zechariah 11:12 – Thirty pieces of silver...

- Matthew 26:15; 27:3–10

Zechariah 12:10 – They shall look upon me whom they have pierced...

- John 19:34, 37; Revelation 1:7

Zechariah 13:7 – Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered...

- Matthew 26:31

ZECHARIAH RELEVANT FOR US

Israel had come to ruin because they forgot where they were going.

“Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O Lord, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself.”
(Lamentations 1:9)

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
(Proverbs 29:18)

Zechariah provided a vision of the “last end”, to encourage the ecclesia to build the house of God.

“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward.”
(Genesis 13:14)

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”
(Luke 21:28)

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

Zechariah: Trees of Righteousness

THE CURSE FROM EDEN REVERSED

“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Isaiah 55:12–13

The Myrtle used in the feast of tabernacles.

“And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.”

(Nehemiah 8:15)

The Sukah of David to be raised up.

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old”

(Amos 9:11)

Briers and thorns represent the people in rebellion, trees of righteousness the people in righteousness.

- Isaiah 41:16–20 – In the kingdom the desert blossoms with the myrtle.

- Isaiah 60:21; 61:3

The people will be called trees of righteousness.

- Ezekiel 34:29 – A plantation for the name.

“Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord... But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown:”

(Ezekiel 36:1,8,9)

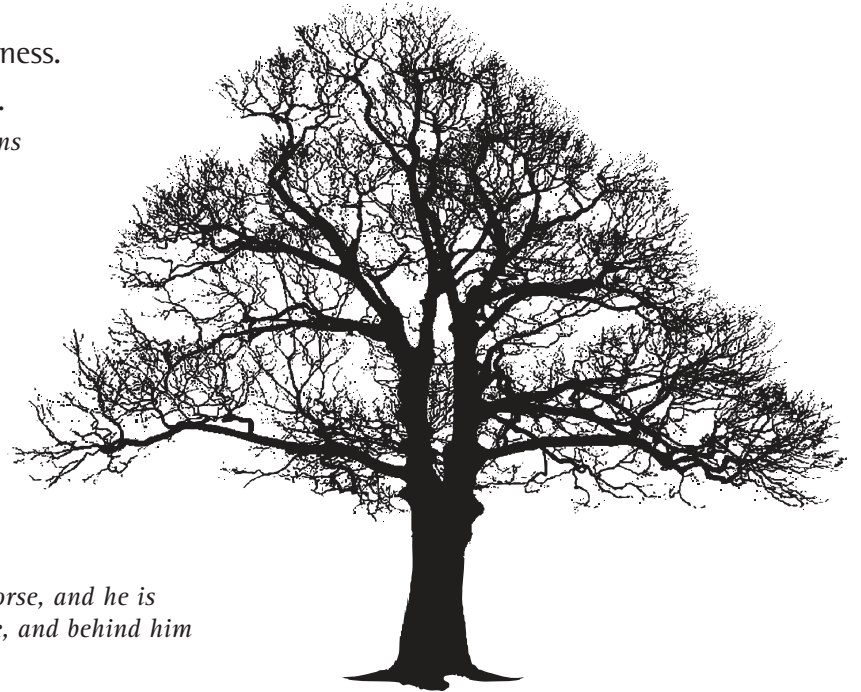
The whole scene transpires “in the shade”.

- Gesenius: “A shady place”

“I have seen by night, and lo, one riding on a red horse, and he is standing between the myrtles that [are] in the shade, and behind him [are] horses, red, bay, and white.”

(Zechariah 1:8 – YLT)

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”
(Psalm 91)



Zechariah: The Victorious Conqueror Revelation 19:11–16

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

“And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

“For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many.”

Isaiah 66:13–16

The Leader and Commander to the People

“Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

“Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.”
(Isaiah 55:3,4)

The Royal House of David Enters the City

“For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people.”
(Jeremiah 22:4)

The Mighty King, the Victorious Conqueror

“My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

“Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

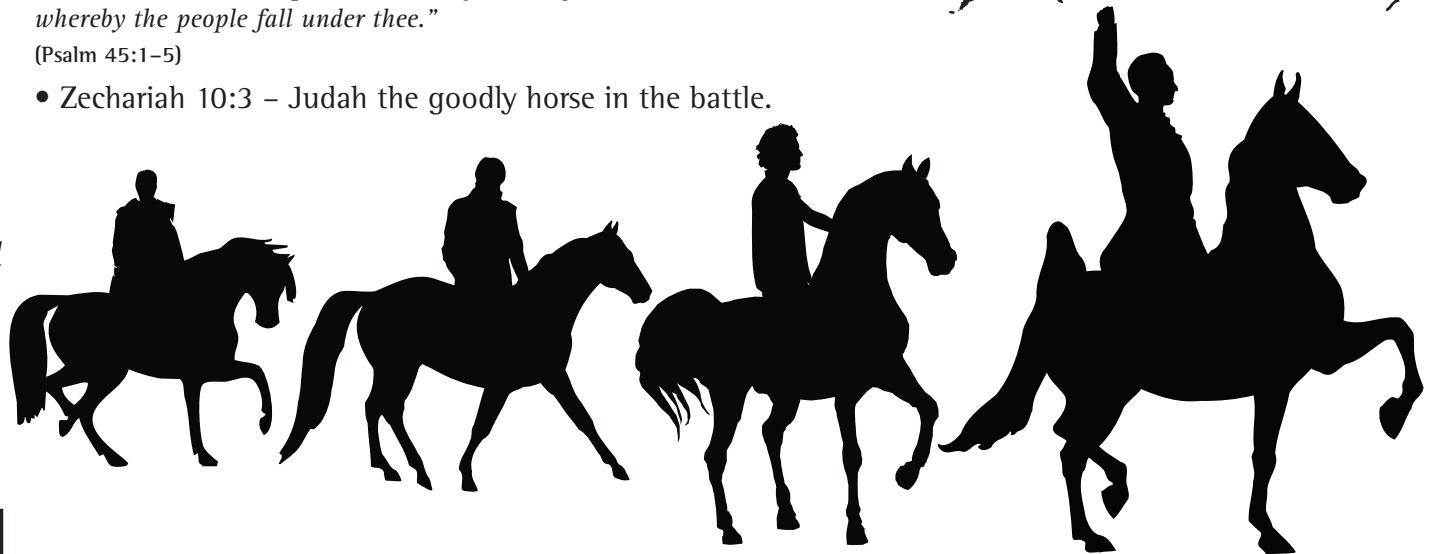
“Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.

“And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

“Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.”

(Psalm 45:1–5)

- Zechariah 10:3 – Judah the goodly horse in the battle.



Zechariah: The Prince of Peace *Isaiah 9:6-7*

THE PURPOSE OF THE ETERNAL SPIRIT

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Habakkuk 2:14

THE PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED

“And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.”

Zechariah 1:11

The horsemen sent out into the earth to subdue it accomplish the purpose of the Eternal Spirit.

“We have walked to and fro through the earth...”

(Zechariah 1:11)

“And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth. Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country.”

(Zechariah 6:7-8)

The Cherubim Ride Forth

“And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.”
(Ezekiel 1:12)

The Ark Goes Out Before to Seek out a Rest

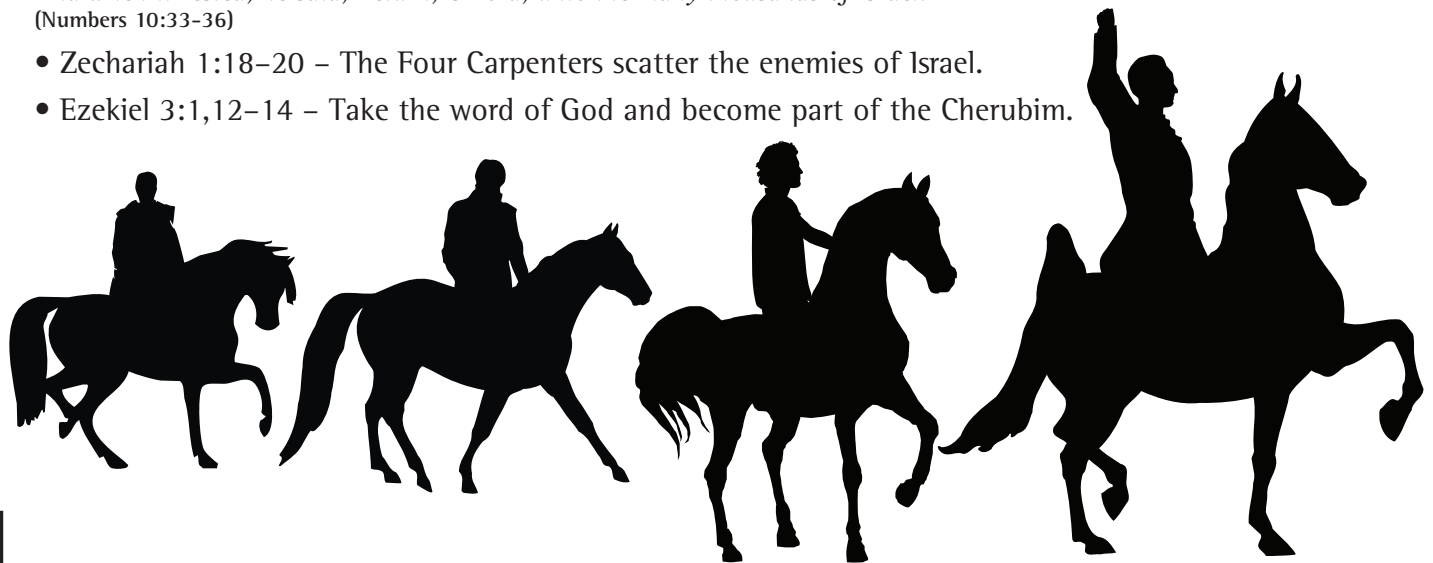
“And they departed from the mount of the Lord three days’ journey: and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them in the three days’ journey, to search out a resting place for them.

And the cloud of the Lord was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.

And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.

And when it rested, he said, Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.”
(Numbers 10:33-36)

- Zechariah 1:18-20 – The Four Carpenters scatter the enemies of Israel.
- Ezekiel 3:1,12-14 – Take the word of God and become part of the Cherubim.



Zechariah: Men of Sign or Type Isaiah 8:18; Ezekiel 24:24

“Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the Branch.”

(Zechariah 3:8 – KJV)

“Hear, I pray thee, Joshua, the high priest, Thou and thy companions sitting before thee, (For men of type [are] they,) For lo, I am bringing in My servant -- a Shoot.”

(Zechariah 3:8 – YLT)

“Men who in their persons shadow forth future events.”

(Gesenius' Lexicon)

THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES – DEUTERONOMY 18

Zechariah (Yah has remembered) the Resurrected Prophet

“And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.”
(Zechariah 4:1)

- Zechariah 6:9–15 – Zechariah carries out the result of the vision – the crowning of the king / priest of Israel and his fellow rulers, which would result in the restoration of the kingdom again to Israel.

“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
(Matthew 19:28)

Joshua the High Priest and King whose Name is The Branch

- Zechariah 3:9 – The one through whom the iniquity of the land is removed.

“...Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord:”
(Zechariah 6:13)

Zerubbabel the King with the Plummet of Seven Eyes who will subdue the nations.

- Haggai 2:20–23; Zechariah 4:6–10 – The mountain of the kingdom of men, becomes a plain before Zerubbabel who will arise to shake the nations.

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah”
(Haggai 1:1)

THE MESSENGER THAT TALKED WITH ME

Delivers the Message of Yahweh of Hosts to Israel and is an Actor in the Visions

“Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be.”
(Zechariah 1:9)

Plays the role of:

- The conqueror on the horse.
- The man with the measuring line.
- The one who removes the iniquity from Joshua.
- The one who raises Zechariah from the dead. (4:1)
- The one who casts the wickedness into the ephah, consuming wickedness out of the land.

Zechariah: The Blessing of Moses to Come

“When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

“For the Lord’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.”

Deuteronomy 32:8,9

DEUT. 32

v10 “he kept him as the apple of his eye”

v43 “Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people...”

v29 “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!”

v11 “As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:”

v8 “When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.”

v9 “...the LORD’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.”

v43 “...he... will be merciful (v’Kepher - cover) unto his land, and to his people.”

ZECHARIAH

2:8 “...he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.”

2:11 “...many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people...”

Lamentations 1:9 –

“She remembereth not her last end...”

2:4 “...Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein...”

2:12 “And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.”

3:9 “... and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”

Zechariah: A Man with a Measuring Line

“Then the angel of the Lord answered and said, O Lord of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?”

Zechariah 1:12

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF DAVID

Rev.

6:9 The souls of them that were slain for the word of God under the altar cry out. How long?

Rev.

11:1–3 The measurement of the temple, altar and worshipers. The measurement is a measure of a time period of affliction and trial.

Job

23:10 “...when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

Rev. 21

9–18 The bride of Christ, the royal house of David, that will rule over the kingdom is measured with a golden reed. She has equal measures. She is founded upon 12 foundations, the Hope of Israel.

The Bride is the glory in the midst of Israel. She is light giving gold.

THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Zech.

1:2 “How long wilt thou not have mercy?”
How long will Jerusalem be downtrodden?
A period of downtreading for the Jewish people.

Jer.

30:11 “I will correct thee in measure”

Deut.

32:43 The land and people atoned for.

Deut.

32:9 Yahweh inherits Judah and chooses Jerusalem. (Zech. 2:12)

Psalm

60:6 “I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.”
The inheritance allotted by the man with measuring line.

Zech. 2

5,10,11 “I will dwell in the midst of thee...”
The bride in the midst of Israel.