

Zekharya

זְכַרְיָה

Zekharya 1:1

בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁמִינִי בַשָּׁנָה שְׁתַּיִם לְדָרְיוֹשׁ הָיָה דְבַר יְהוָה אֶל זְכַרְיָה בֶן
בִּרְכִיָּה בֶן עֵדוּ הַנָּבִיא לֵאמֹר:

In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, this word of YHWH came to the prophet Zekhariah son of Berekhiah son of 'Iddo:

Prophet of *Return*.

Zekharya, likely a priest, prophesied from 520-518 BCE to Jews returning from Babylonian exile and reconstituting sovereign life in the Land of Israel.

Background

Babylonia destroys Jerusalem and exiles Jews in 586 BCE.

Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BCE, encouraged Jews to return to Eretz Yisrael and rebuild the Temple; first group starts to go.

Cyrus dies in 530 BCE.

Darius becomes emperor in 522 BCE, appoints Zerubavel Jewish governor of Judea.

Zekharya's Prophecies

Cap. 1:1-6 -- Preface: ancestors were punished; God's ready to relent, so be good.

Cap. 1:7-Cap. 6 -- Series of 8 visions in one night, a symbolic, hope-arousing history of Israel.

Cap. 7-8: 2 years later: Should we maintain mourning practices?

Zekharya's Prophecies, cont.

Cap. 9-11: Oracle outlining God's providential dealings to the time of the coming of the Messiah.

Cap. 12-14: Oracle of glories that await Israel in the end of days, the ultimate conflict and triumph of God's kingdom.

Zekharya's Major Concerns

The rebuilding of the Temple;

Priesthood & purity;

Communal repentance;

The ultimate rule of God's kingdom over
the whole world.