

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH (Zechariah 1:1)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The DATE and AUTHORSHIP of this book (1:1)

1. Following the Jewish calendar “*the eighth month of the second year of Darius*” would be between late _____ and late _____, _____ BC.
2. Zechariah was “*the _____ of Berechiah,*” and the _____ of Iddo the priest. (Ezra 5:1; 6:14; Neh. 12:4, 16)
3. Zechariah 1:1 attributes the _____ to Zechariah the _____, a spokesman for the Lord to His people Judah.

* What about all the arguments from Higher Criticism questioning the authorship of chapters 9-14?

B. The HISTORICAL SETTING in which this book was written

1. _____ the Great (550-530 BC) allowed the Jews to return to Judah. After his son ruled for a short time (530-522 BC), _____ took the throne of Persia (522-486 BC) for the next _____ years.
2. With the _____ dates recorded in the book of Zechariah (1:1; 1:7; 7:1), we can conclude that the book was written between _____ and _____ BC (500 years before the arrival of the Messiah).

C. The RECIPIENTS of this book

1. The prophet was writing to the _____ who had _____ to the land of Judah, after the 70-year Babylonian Captivity.
2. The troubles of Post-exilic Judah are recorded in the books of Ezra and Haggai; the people had immediately started on the temple when they returned, but they soon faced _____ and _____ the project. (Ezra 4-6)
3. The people _____ the work on the temple to build _____ for themselves. (Haggai 1:3-11)

* What location did Zechariah write from?

D. The BASIC OUTLINE of Zechariah

1. An Exhortation to _____, 1:1-6
2. The Prophet's _____ Visions, 1:7-6:15
3. The _____ and _____ Concerning Fasting, 7:1-8:23
4. The Future of the World Powers, _____, and the _____ of Messiah, 9:1-14:21