

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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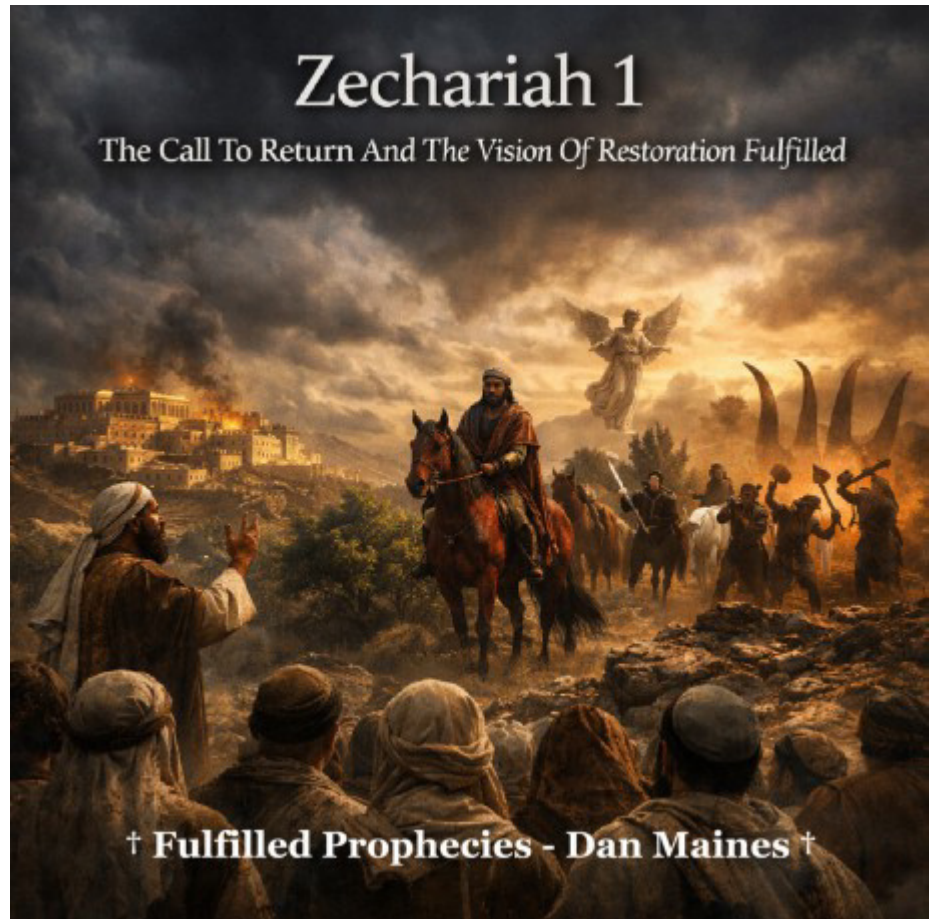
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## Zechariah 1 The Call To Return And The Vision Of Restoration Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

## Zechariah 1 The Call To Return And The Vision Of Restoration Fulfilled

### Introduction

† Zechariah opens in a time when Israel had returned from Babylon, but their hearts still needed to return to God, and that's the key issue being addressed (Ezra 5:1).

† The message is simple and direct, return to the Lord, and He will return to you, this is covenant language that finds its

fulfillment in Christ bringing restoration (James 4:8).

† This chapter sets the tone, judgment had already happened, and now restoration is being revealed, pointing forward to what would be completed in that first century generation (Matthew 24:34).

## **Zechariah 1:1**

In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, saying,

† This places the prophecy in real history, not future speculation, it was during the Medo-Persian period after the exile (Ezra 5:1).

† God is speaking into a real moment, showing that prophecy always connects to the people living at that time (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† The same pattern holds throughout scripture, God speaks to a generation and fulfills His word within that generation (Matthew 24:34).

## **Zechariah 1:2**

The LORD was very angry with your fathers.

† This is looking back at the judgment that already came, especially the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:8-10).

† Their fathers experienced the consequences of breaking covenant, exactly as warned in Deuteronomy 28 (Deuteronomy 28:49-52).

† This confirms that judgment is not future here, it had already taken place, setting the stage for restoration (Daniel 9:11-12).

### **Zechariah 1:3**

Therefore say to them, This is what the LORD of armies says: Return to Me, declares the LORD of armies, that I may return to you, says the LORD of armies.

† This is covenant language, not individual salvation language, it's about national restoration (Deuteronomy 30:2-3).

† The promise of return finds its full meaning in Christ, where God dwells with His people again (John 14:23).

† James echoes this exact principle, Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (James 4:8).

### **Zechariah 1:4**

Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, This is what the LORD of armies says, Turn now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds. But they did not listen or pay attention to Me, declares the LORD.

† The warning is clear, don't repeat the same rebellion (Jeremiah 25:4).

† Israel had a pattern of rejecting prophets, which ultimately led to judgment (2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

† Jesus confirms this same pattern, saying they killed the prophets (Matthew 23:29-37).

### **Zechariah 1:5**

Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

† This is a reminder of mortality and accountability (Psalm 103:15-16).

† The previous generation passed away under judgment (Lamentations 5:7).

† It reinforces that God's word outlasts every generation (Isaiah 40:8).

### **Zechariah 1:6**

But did My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, not overtake your fathers? Then they repented and said, Just as the LORD of armies planned to do to us in accordance with our ways and our deeds, so He has dealt with us.

† God's word overtook them, meaning it came to pass exactly as spoken (Zechariah 1:6).

† This proves prophetic fulfillment is certain and not delayed indefinitely (Isaiah 55:11).

† The people themselves acknowledged God's judgment was just (Nehemiah 9:33).

### **Zechariah 1:7**

On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows:

† Another time marker showing this is grounded in history (Haggai 1:1).

† This reinforces that prophecy isn't vague or detached, it's tied to real events (Luke 1:1-3).

### **Zechariah 1:8**

I saw at night, and behold, a man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtle trees that were in the ravine, with red, sorrel, and white horses behind him.

† This is a vision, symbolic language revealing spiritual realities (Daniel 7:2).

† The horses represent messengers sent throughout the earth (Zechariah 6:5).

† Similar imagery appears in Revelation, showing divine oversight of the nations (Revelation 6:1-8).

### **Zechariah 1:9**

Then I said, My lord, what are these? And the angel who was speaking with me said to me, I will show you what these are.

† Zechariah seeks understanding, showing that visions require interpretation (Daniel 8:15-16).

† God provides explanation, meaning prophecy is meant to be understood (Amos 3:7).

### **Zechariah 1:10**

And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees responded and said, These are those whom the LORD has sent

to patrol the earth.

† These are divine agents observing the earth (Job 1:7).

† God is actively aware of all nations and conditions (Proverbs 15:3).

† This shows God's sovereignty over history (Daniel 4:17).

### **Zechariah 1:11**

So they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees and said, We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet.

† The nations appeared at peace under Persian rule (Ezra 6:15).

† But this peace was temporary and superficial (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

† God's concern is not worldly stability but covenant restoration (Haggai 2:6-7).

### **Zechariah 1:12**

Then the angel of the LORD said, LORD of armies, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which You have been indignant these seventy years?

† The seventy years refers to the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:11-12).

† This confirms the timeline already fulfilled (Daniel 9:2).

† Now the focus shifts from judgment to mercy (Psalm 102:13).

### **Zechariah 1:13**

The LORD answered the angel who was speaking with me with gracious words, comforting words.

† God responds with comfort, not continued judgment (Isaiah 40:1-2).

† This points forward to the comfort fulfilled in Christ (Luke 2:25).

### **Zechariah 1:14**

So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, Proclaim, saying, This is what the LORD of armies says: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.

† God's jealousy is covenant love (Exodus 34:14).

† He is committed to restoring His people (Zechariah 8:2).

† This ultimately finds fulfillment in the establishment of the New Covenant people (Hebrews 8:10).

### **Zechariah 1:15**

But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster.

† The nations went beyond what God allowed (Isaiah 10:5-7).

† They would also face judgment (Jeremiah 50:17-18).

† This ties into later judgments on Rome and other powers (Revelation 18:2).

## **Zechariah 1:16**

Therefore this is what the LORD says: I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it, declares the LORD of armies, and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem.

† This points to the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 6:14-15).

† But ultimately it points to the true temple, the people of God (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† Fulfillment is not in physical stones, but in God's dwelling with His people (Ephesians 2:21-22).

## **Zechariah 1:17**

Again, proclaim, saying, This is what the LORD of armies says: My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.

† This prosperity is covenant blessing (Deuteronomy 30:9).

† It finds fulfillment in the kingdom established through Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

† Hebrews shows the true Jerusalem is already present (Hebrews 12:22).

## **Zechariah 1:18-19**

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, there were four horns. So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, What are these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.

† The horns represent powers that scattered Israel (Daniel 7:7).

† These include Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (Daniel 2:37-40).

† God is identifying the forces behind their scattering (Zechariah 1:19).

## **Zechariah 1:20-21**

Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. And I said, What are these coming to do? And he said, These are the horns which have scattered Judah so that no one lifts up his head; but these craftsmen have come to terrify them, to throw down the horns of the nations who have raised their horn against the land of Judah in order to scatter it.

† The craftsmen represent God's instruments of judgment (Isaiah 13:5).

† Every kingdom that rises against God's people will fall (Daniel 2:44).

† This was fulfilled through successive empires overthrowing one another, culminating in Rome's fall (Matthew 24:2).

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the return from Babylon and rebuilding efforts in Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11.

† Eusebius confirms the fulfillment of Jerusalem's judgment and restoration themes in Ecclesiastical History.

† Tacitus records the dominance and later decline of Roman power, aligning with prophetic patterns.

## How It Applies To Us Today

† The call to return still stands, but it's fulfilled in Christ where we now live in restored fellowship (John 14:23).

† We don't wait for restoration, we're already in it (Hebrews 12:28).

† God's word always comes to pass, so we trust what He's already fulfilled (Isaiah 55:11).

† The kingdom isn't future, it's present, and we're part of it now (Colossians 1:13).

## Q & A Appendix

**Q** When was the return to God fulfilled?

**A** It was fulfilled in Christ establishing the New Covenant (Luke 22:20).

**Q** Are the seventy years future?

**A** No, they were fulfilled in the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:11-12).

**Q** Is the temple in this chapter physical or spiritual?

**A** It pointed forward to the spiritual temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

**Q** Who are the horns?

**A** They are the kingdoms that scattered Israel (Daniel 7:17).

**Q** Has God already returned to His people?

**A** Yes, through Christ dwelling with us (John 14:23).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† Zechariah 1

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories

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