

----- Zechariah II -----

3485a AM, 4194 JP, 520 BC

1019. On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month of this same second year, about halfway between seedtime (which immediately followed the end of the sabbatical year) and the harvest, the temple began to be built on its old foundations by Zerubbabel and Joshua, the high priest, with the assistance of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. {#Ezr 5:1,2 Hag 2:10,18,19}

3485b AM, 4195 JP, 519 BC

1023. The work was thus interrupted, and the famine continued in Judah because the grain was not yet ripe. On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the prophet Zechariah had a vision of horsemen galloping up and down over the face of the whole earth, which was at rest and quiet. [L160] When in the vision the prophet asked what this meant, God graciously answered with many comforting words to the angel who was entreating God to cease his anger and fury against the Jews, Jerusalem and the cities of Judah. These seventy years mentioned in the vision are to be reckoned from the coming of the Babylonians and their last siege laid to Jerusalem. {See note on 3415c AM. <<841>>} {#Jer 34:1 Eze 5:12,13 Zec 1:7-13} This

exhortation, which is recorded in Zechariah, {#Zec 2:6,7} was sent to the Jews still remaining in Babylon. They were told to get out as fast as possible, to avoid that calamity which Darius brought upon Babylon a while later, when he took it.

1024. The edict of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple was found at Achmetha or Ecbatana, in the province of the Medes. Darius sent this and a second command in favour of the Jews to Tatnai and his companions. They were ordered not to hinder the work of the Lord's house but help it along. The costs of the project were to be taken from the king's tribute. Tatnai and his companions were to pay the costs for the daily sacrifices that were to be offered by the priests at Jerusalem. With this new command, and the encouragement of Haggai and Zechariah, they enthusiastically completed the work. {#Ezr 6:1-14}

3589a AM, 4298 JP, 416 BC

1306. Malachi, the last of the prophets, was a contemporary of Nehemiah. This we gather from the fact that he nowhere exhorted the people to build the temple, as Haggai and Zechariah did. Since the temple was now built, he reproved those same disorders among the Jews which Nehemiah also reproved at his second return with a new commission. These

are: the marriages with foreign women, {#Ne 13:23-29 Mal 2:11} withholding of tithes, {#Ne 13:10-14 Mal 3:8} and abuses in the worship of God. {#Ne 13:15-22 Mal 1:13 2:8} They were no longer to expect a continual succession of prophets, as before. Therefore Malachi, in the last words of his prophecy, exhorted them to hold fast to the law of Moses until Christ, that great prophet of the church, should appear with his forerunner, John the Baptist:

"In the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the rebels to the wisdom of the just." {#Mal 4:5 Lu 1:17 Mt 11:14 17:12}