A Biographical Study of Zerubbabel

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Zerubbabel
CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. Zerubbabel and the return
   A. He was also called Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:8, 11; 5:14, 16).
   B. He was the grandson of Judean King Jehoiachin (1 Chron. 3:17-19).
   C. He was the political leader who directed the first return of the Jews from Persia back to Jerusalem (Ezra 2:1-2).
   D. He was appointed by King Cyrus himself (Ezra 5:13-15).
   E. He carried back with him the gold and silver articles Nebuchadnezzar had once taken from the temple of Solomon (Ezra 1:11).

II. Zerubbabel and the rebuilding
   A. He helped build the brazen altar upon reaching Jerusalem (Ezra 3:2).
   B. He then started the work of rebuilding the second temple (Ezra 3:8-9).

III. Zerubbabel and the resolution
   A. He refused to compromise his testimony by allowing the pagan Samaritans to aid in the building of the temple (Ezra 4:2-3).
   B. He was assisted and encouraged in his work by Joshua the high priest and two key prophets, Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 5:1-2; Hag. 2:2-9).

IV. Zerubbabel and the reward—Haggai and Zechariah revealed the following information to Zerubbabel:
   A. Haggai
      1. God’s presence and blessing would be upon him (Hag. 2:4-5).
      2. A great tribulation would someday come (Hag. 2:21-22).
      3. After this the “desire of all nations” (a reference to Christ) would return (Hag. 2:6-8).
      4. God had chosen Zerubbabel for a glorious ministry in the Millennium (Hag. 2:23).
   B. Zechariah
      1. The battle is the Lord’s (Zech. 4:6).
      2. He, Zerubbabel, would be allowed to complete the second temple (Zech. 4:8-9).

STATISTICS
Father: Shealtiel (Ezra 3:2; Hag. 2:2)
Sons: Meshullam, Hananiah, Hashubah,Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, Jushab-hesed (1 Chron. 3:19-20)
Daughter: Shelomith (1 Chron. 3:19)
Brother: Shimei (1 Chron. 3:19)
Significant ancestors: His grandfather was King Jehoiachin (1 Chron. 3:17-19)
First mention: 1 Chron. 3:19
Final mention: Zechariah 4:10
Meaning of her name: “Seed, shoot of Babylon”
Frequency of her name: Referred to 26 times
Biblical books mentioning her: Five books (1 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah)

Occupation: Political leader (Hag. 1:1)

Place of birth: Persia (Ezra 2:2)

Place of death: Probably Jerusalem

Important fact about his life: He led the first return back to Jerusalem following the Babylonian Captivity (Ezra 2:2)