

B. The Change in Structure:

1. There are no more visions. What is before us in these two chapters is an analysis of an historic situation. What will come after this is predictive prophecy, pure and simple.
2. There is a common development:
 - a. Acts for present are based on what has been done in the past and what should be done for the future.
 - b. Specific details are detached and discussed only as their relevance makes them necessary.

While all the visions are over, this method of working for action is very similar to the motif surrounding the giving and explanation of the visions. Perhaps the physical structure in the vehicle is changed while the concept has not. Perhaps.

C. The time sequence:

1. The temple rebuilding apparently began (or the impetus was given for it) in the 24th day of the 6th month of the second year of Darius (Haggai 1:15).
2. The Zecharian visions flow from the 24th day of the 11th month of the second year. (Zech 1:7) My suggestion is that these visions come as encouragement and direction to the small band trying to accomplish the job...that they follow Haggai 1:15 by 5 months is significant...it is always easy to begin something but flagging comes easily in the face of great stress.
3. The historical sequence we are now studying comes in the 4th day of the 9th month of the 4th year. It is about two years after the beginning of the Zecharian visions (Zech 7:1)
4. The completion of the temple rebuilding was on the 3rd day of the 12th month in the 6th year and so the present setting comes almost halfway between the beginning and the ending of the project (Ezra 6:5 gives the final date). This place of the historical portion is, I think, significant in the nature of the way in which people undertake projects and the difficulty we often have in completing them.