

## 2. The Temple Correspondence

It is chiefly a matter of Tatnai's letter and the answer of Darius, in our account. The treasure house at Babylon was searched (Ezra 5:17) and the decree found at Ecbatana (6:2). The capitol of Cyrus had been Susa (Pasargadae) and the capitol of Darius was at Persepolis. Babylon was something of a resort for all. The emphasis is that the king had archives in many places, depending on the king and his dwelling and his officers. Bureaucracy had not yet reached the ultimate level of the present civilization and centrality of files with the appropriate micro-filming had not yet been made a science.

The letter is therefore dated in the general range of 518-519.

## 3. What hindered the temple rebuilding?

The grounds for many sermons may be found in this material. I sketch five basic areas of trouble:

- a. External opposition
- b. Jewish apathy (Zech 3:12)
- c. Shortage of workers
- d. Lack of Vision
- e. Memory of the past.

We may embellish them but we dare not tarry or the whole course could end right here.

## 4. Observation

The task of Zechariah, et al, was twofold: He had to show that the temple was necessary and that it was God's will that it be built. In the case of the latter it should have been obvious from the comments in the law. Therefore the former was probably the hardest difficulty but we will not argue about it in these notes.

## F. The prophet Zechariah:

1. The meaning of his name:
2. Place in the Old Testament:
3. Possibility of a typical name...not a personal name.