

3:25-27

the son of Mattathiah the first of two (the next being found in the next verse). *the son of Amos* I find now conclusive proof that this is the prophet of the Old Testament. *the son of Nahum* I find no proof that this is the prophet of the Old Testament. *the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, ²⁷ the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel* mentioned in four books of the Old Testament (Ezra & Nehemiah, Haggai & Zechariah¹). It appears that he is merely genealogical biographically mentioned in Nehemiah whereas he is the builder of the temple in Ezra. Using, then, the completion of the temple's foundation in Ezra 3:12-13 and the commencement of the superstructure in Ezra 5:2, we place Zechariah 4:9² (with "have laid" and the "shall finish") in between these two verses. Furthermore, given the time marker of Darius' reign in Haggai 1:1,³ we see the same marker in Ezra 4:24 and conclude, therefore, that Haggai 1:2 occurs just before Ezra 5:2.⁴ Now the question I have is "how long was **Zerubbabel** standing by to finish the temple project?"

To answer this question it won't hurt to see the four kings mentioned in Ezra: Cyrus (Ezra 1:1), Ahasuarus (4:6), Artaxerxes (4:7), and Darius (5:5). *the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er*, not to be confused with the **Er** of Genesis 28, the son of Judah.

¹A short concordance search will convince you that Jerusalem is the focus of these two chapters as they finish, respectively, on a note of "this is not the last chapter."

²This book begins nearly two months after Haggai begins (compare 1:1 and 1:1). Zechariah 1:8 begins a series of nine visions that extend through chapter 6 and occurred on the same night. After nearly two years (Zechariah 7:1), he writes again.

³The first chapter takes 23 days (Haggai 1:15), while less than 30 days later the 2nd chapter begins (Haggai 2:1) & just over two months later 2:10 picks up.

⁴Ezra doesn't speak in the first person until after this chapter of his. So a lot of these guys he mentions are already at work in Jerusalem when he arrives.