

## New Hampshire Supplement

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To keep you better informed of the happenings in the jurisdiction, I will dedicate a portion of this column to upcoming events. Below are our events for September and beyond:

- Monthly Grand York Rite bodies educational series, at 7:00pm online (details provided in advanced) – We will resume in September

### Zerubbabel...Another Look

I thought it was worth spending some more time looking in depth at the main figures of our orders. While I did briefly discuss the character in the February 2019 supplement, our focus at that time was on the Orders themselves. In the case of Zerubbabel, he was of course featured in the Order of the Red Cross examination.

In the piece the following information was presented:

*In this order, we put on the role of Zerubbabel (roughly translated as 'seed of Babylon'), who led the Jews from their captivity in Babylon and helped with the building of the second Temple in Jerusalem after being appointed governor of the order.*

While this does provide some basic context to the historical and biblical personage, it falls far short of what is known. We know he was the governor of Judea under the reign of King Darius the I in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC and his biggest feat was the rebuilding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem following the release of the captive Jews from Babylon. He was of the Davidic line, which would have also been an influence on his desire to restore the Temple as well, as were the prophets Zechariah and Haggai. Those names should not be foreign to you as a member of the York Rite either.

Zerubbabel can be found elsewhere in biblical writings beyond those of the prophets. He is also found in the books of Ezra and chronicles which details more of the stories of the rebuilding

and challenges he faced at first from those who had escaped captivity, but had left the city in disarray. We also learn of Zerubbabel's activities beyond the temple, such as the restoration of the priesthood and the Levites, as told in both Ezra and Nehemiah.

Beyond those events, we have no other biblical accounts of his life which ends at the Passover, five years after his initial governorship. There is much uncertainty that remains, particularly around his heritage. Numerous sources talk to the conflicting passages in the bible about his father; it is unclear if it was Shealtiel or Pedaiah. This is an important fact as it would be through Shealtiel that he would have had the authority and legal succession to either the Aaronic or Davidic lines.

One last thing that is interesting is the various accounts of his contest with Darius, as to which is "the strongest". I will not go into details here, as that could take another installment, but the main theme remains constant and aligns, of course, with our own lesson within the order. While not surprising of course for a Christian order, what is of note, is the most common source of the tale comes from one of the apocryphal texts, that of 1 Esdras.

Hopefully, this will encourage you to look a little deeper into the other characters of the Order of the Red Cross. We will feature others over the next couple months, but will not cover all of them of course. I hope you are all remaining in good spirits, I pray that things continue to proceed in the right direction, and we can continue our work. I look forward to seeing you all in the quarries.

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars/>

IHS,

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