

A Call to Turn To the Lord Zechariah 1:1-6

1 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,

2 The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the Lord.

5 Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? 6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

The Israelites had been in captivity for 70 years. Now having returned to the land of promise they struggle to rebuild the Temple and walls of Jerusalem. They are opposed by adversaries and tired of the work, so God sends prophets to encourage them and stir them to the task. It seems that they will never see the glory of the former days, but Zechariah will preach a message of hope of even greater glory to come. But before they can receive this message of

hope, the people must turn to the Lord completely.

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

Part 1 - The Word of the Lord

Read Zechariah 1:1; Ezra 4:24-5:1; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

- 1) According to Ezra 4 why did God raise up Zechariah the prophet?
- 2) According to 2 Timothy 3 what are the benefits of knowing the Word of God (scriptures)?
- 3) How did the people need the Word of the Lord and how is our need similar today?

Part 2—Time to Return

Read Zechariah 1:2-3; James 4:8

1) According to Zechariah 1:3 what does God desire?

- 2) According to James 4:8 how does our direction affect God's direction?
- 3) How often do you think Christians need to turn to the Lord? Why?

Part 3—A Lesson from the Past

Read Zechariah 1:2-4; Jeremiah 44:1-6

- 1) Why was God "sore displeased" with the previous generations?
- 2) According to Jeremiah 44 why did God pour out His fury on the people and destroy Jerusalem?
- 3) What practical ways can you ensure that you don't make the same mistakes of these former generations?

<u> Part 4—Just Like He Said</u>

Read Zechariah 1:5-6; 2 Peter 3:8-11

- 1) What does history reveal about God's Words according to Zechariah 1:5-6?
- 2) According to 2 Peter 3 how should we view the Word (promises) of God?
- 3) How did the people respond to Zechariah's message? How is this an example to us?

