

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers

"A Time to Encourage"

Zechariah 1:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Zechariah 1:1-6

2. Here's what we know:

a) Zechariah was one of the 12 Minor Prophets.,

b) **Zechariah was a contemporary to Haggai.**

1) The prophet Haggai explained that Israel's hard times were a result of placing their own interests ahead of God's.

2) Zechariah picks up the same theme, encouraging the people to rebuild the house of God.

c) Zechariah prophesied to those returning from Persia to rebuild the temple.

1) **Ezra 1:1-3**

3. Ezra 6:6-12

4. Notice **Vs1** - **"What's in a name?"** Names mean something.

a) **Zechariah** - **"Jehovah Remembers"**

b) **Berechiah** - **"Jehovah will Bless"**

c) **Iddo** - **"At the Appointed Time"**

5. **MEANING** - **"Jehovah will Remember to Bless at the Appointed Time!!"**

6. Ezra 5:1

7. Jeremiah 29:11

8. **ZECHARIAH contains more Messianic prophecies that point to the Messiah than any other Minor Prophet.**

a) **Zechariah 3:8** - The Branch

b) **Zechariah 3:8** - God's Servant

c) **Zechariah 13:7** - God's Smitten Shepherd

d) **Zechariah 9:9** - Jesus Triumphant Entry

e) **Zechariah 11:12-13** - Jesus' betrayal for 30 pcs of silver.

f) **Zechariah 12:10** - Messiah's piercings

g) **Zechariah 14:3-8** - Messiah's return to Mount Olivet

9. Zechariah is quoted some 40 times in the New Testament.

1) This is because it is so Messianic in nature, and is one of the most Christ centric of the Minor prophets.

10. Zechariah's focus was and is on the Kingdom of Christ.

I. THE CALL TO ENCOURAGE Vs 1

A. THE SOURCE

1. Vs 1

a) *"the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah"*

2) Zechariah was called by God with a specific mission in mind.

a) *Romans 1:1*

B. THE MESSAGE

1. Vs 1-2

a) *"saying. The LORD was very angry with your fathers"*

2. That's definitely not a very good place to be.

a) *Jeremiah 21:5*

b) *Mark 7:6-9*

3. Vs 2

a) *"very angry"*

b) *2 Kings 21:14-15*

4. Zechariah's message is one of warning and judgment.

5. *Psalm 50:21*

C. THE PRESSURE

1. Vs 3

a) *"Therefore, say to them....."*

1) *"Thus declares the LORD of hosts," 3X*

2. Zechariah was feeling the pressure as he is overwhelmed with the Immensity and POWER of God's wrath.

3. *Jeremiah 20:9*

4. *Acts 4:19-20*

5. *Job 32:18-20*

D. GOD'S CALLING TODAY

1. A "*Calling of God*" is understood as a divine summons to a life of purpose through faith, obedience and service.

a) God calls unbelievers to **SALVATION**.

b) God calls believers to **REPENTANCE**.

c) God calls believers to a life of holiness and separation.

1) *1 Peter 1:16*

d) God calls believers to a specific life or mission.

1) *Ephesians 4:1*

2) *Romans 1:1*

3) *2 Peter 1:10-11*

2. God speaks to us through His Holy Spirit and the WORD.

II. THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

A. YOU GO FIRST

1. Vs 3b

a) "*Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts*"

b) "Return to me"

1) STOP going the direction you are going!!!!

c) (THEN) "and I will return to you"

1) That's a conditional promise!!

2) *1 John 1:9*

B. AVOID DISASTER

1. Vs 4

a) "*Do not be like your fathers*"

b) "*to whom the former prophets cried out*"

1) *Matthew 23:37*

c) *"Thus says the LORD of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds."*

2. Disobedience is disastrous!!

3. *James 4:8*

4. Vs 4

a) *"But they did not hear or pay attention to me"*

5. **LISTEN UP:** The problem with Israel was like the problem with Christians today, *"They love their sin more than they love God."*

III. GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

A. WE HAVE AN EXPERATION DATE

1. Vs 5

a) **QUESTION:** "Your fathers, where are they?"

b) **ANSWER:** Captivity, death, sword, famine, pestilence!!!!

2. The prophets were faithful to warn the people, it's just that the people, the fathers were not faithful to listen or to take heed.

3. We all have an expiration date!!!

a) *Psalms 90:10*

B. BUT GOD'S WORD ENDURETH

1. Vs 6

a) *"did they not overtake your fathers?"*

2. God's Word overtook the fathers in that they have passed from the scene, yet God's Word endures forever.

3. *Isaiah 40:8*

4. *Hebrews 4:12*