

Allen Temple Baptist Church

Sunday School Live

1

Sunday March 24, 2024

Title: Return To God

Text: Zechariah 1:1-6, 7:8-14

Devotion: Haggai 1-2,

2 Corinthians 30:1-12

Instructor: Michael McCants

INTRODUCTION

Zechariah was born to a priest named Berekiah , son of the priest Iddo in Babylon. Zechariah was called to minister and prophesy to troubled people to return to God The first chapter of the book was written around 524 B.C. The people were facing political strife and turmoil, and once again strayed from God.

INTRODUCTION

About five years later (519 B.C.), he wrote the seventh chapter. The biblical events described in this lesson occurred during the restoration period. The Book of Zechariah is filled with a series of visions given to him. Chapters 1-8. We read one the first example in Zechariah Chapter 1 vs. 8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1. NEW INTERPRETERS NIV, NRSV STUDY BIBLE.**
- 2. BIBLESTUDYTOOLS.COM**
- 3. PRECEPTS 4 LIVING**
- 4. BOOK OF BIBLICAL IMAGERY**
- 5. INSIGHT FOR LIVING / ZECHARIAH.**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

 ***CHAT WITH US!!!***

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Send your questions to:

sundayschoollive@allen-temple.org

ZECHARIAH 1: 1-2 NIV

A Call to Return to the LORD

1. In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo:
2. “The LORD was very angry with your ancestors.

ZECHARIAH 1: 3 NIV

3). Therefore, tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.

ZECHARIAH 1: 4 NIV

4).Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.

ZECHARIAH 1: 5 NIV

5) Where are your ancestors now?
And the prophets, do they live forever?

ZECHARIAH 1:6 NIV

“6). But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors?

“Then they repented and said, ‘The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

1. *What did God Call Zechariah to do, and what challenges did he likely face with his audience?*
2. *What promise did God make to his people?*
3. **What reminders did God give regarding the Ancestors?**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

In chapter 7:5-6, God challenges the rituals performed and asks the questions:

When you were fasting for years was it really for me?

Were you not just feasting for yourselves?

ZECHARIAH 7: 8-9 NIV

13

8). And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah:

9). "This is what the LORD Almighty said:
'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

ZECHARIAH 7:10-11 NIV

10). Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor.

Do not plot evil against each other.'

11 "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and covered their ears.

ZECHARIAH 7:12 NIV

15

12). They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets, so, the LORD Almighty was very angry.

ZECHARIAH 7:12 NIV

13" 'When I called, they did not listen;
So, when they called, I would not listen,' says
the LORD Almighty.

ZECHARIAH 7:14 NIV

17

14' I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers.

The land they left behind them was so desolate that no one traveled through it. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.' "

Liberating Lesson

We encounter similar disobedience in our present-day society. Every day, we meet people who harden their hearts to hearing the word of God. However, Zechariah encourages returning to the Lord, leads to a right relationship with and true worship of Him. We must be patient and walk with the Lord. As we do so, He will keep us and encourage us in times of discord.

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

19

The Holy Spirit fills us with a joy that the world does not give. In times of distress the Lord provides protection for us.

When we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are to be witnesses to others to win souls for Christ. This is the mission of the church until the Lord comes again.

SUMMARY & REVIEW

- 1). What does God declare of His People ?
- 2). God repeatedly showed Israel love, mercy, grace and justice.
- 3). Continued disobedience has consequences.
- 4). God's Love is eternal, it's never too late to return unto God.



How Allen Temple Receives Members

- **Candidate for Baptism:** Upon the profession of faith in Christ as Lord, Savior, and Forgiver of your sins.
- **Christian Experience:** You are inactive as a church member and wish to activate your church membership and renew your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Transfer of Membership:** From one church to another by letter



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