

Return, Rebuild, Restore
Study Guide
Zechariah 1:1-6

In 539 B.C. the Persian King, Cyrus the Great, crossed the Tigris River and conquered Babylon. Israel was able to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and the city. There was the anticipation of restoring the presence of God in their midst through the Temple and coming back under the “umbrella” of God’s blessing. But instead they got side-tracked and focused on their own comfort. God called Haggai to confront them and then Zechariah to comfort and encourage them.

Big Idea: His Presence is Enough.

1. God Speaks. Read Zechariah 1:1.

Note that Zechariah, means “Jehovah remembers”, Berechiah means “Jehovah blesses” and Iddo means “in the appointed time”.

Share a story of how God remembered and blessed you at an appointed time? What was it like for you to wait on Him? How did He speak to you?

2. Return to Me. Read Zechariah 1:2-3.

How do you engage the presence of God in your life (i.e., “Return to Me”)?

Consider and discuss the following concepts from the sermon:

Confession, scripture, fellowship, times of consolation and desolation, faith vs. feeling, channeling your desires towards Him first and foremost.

3. Learn from History. Read Zechariah 1:4-6

How did undervaluing the presence of God affect the forefathers of the Jews?

Why do you think they did not listen to the warnings of the prophets? What were the natural consequences of their idolatry?

Big Idea: His Presence is Enough.

What change could you make moving forward to position yourself to value God’s presence in your life first and foremost?

Message Slides

Big Idea: His Presence is Enough.

Image- Cyrus conquers Babylon

Return to Jerusalem

1. Rebuild the Temple (Ezra)
2. Purify the Community (Ezra)
3. Rebuild the City (Nehemiah)

Haggai 1:4-6

“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶You have sown much and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.”

Zechariah- Return, Rebuild, Restore

... prerequisites to spiritual blessing.

Outline

Zechariah 1-8- 8 visions and 4 messages.

Zechariah 9-14- One King (Christ)

The angel talking with Zechariah

1:11 “...the angel of the Lord...”

1:12 “...then the angel of the Lord said...”

2:3-“And, behold, the angel who talked with me...”

4:1- “And the angel who talked with me came again...”

4:5- “Then the angel who talked with me answered...”

5:5- “Then the angel who talked with me went forth...”

5:10- “Then I said to the angel who talked with me...”

6:4- “Then I answered and said unto the angel who talked with me...”

Zechariah 3:1, 3-4

“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at the right hand to accuse him.....³Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴And the angel said to those who were standing before him, ‘Remove the filthy garments from him.’ And to him he said, ‘Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and will clothe you with pure vestments.’”

Big Idea: His Presence is Enough.

A. God speaks (1:1)

“In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying...”

Zechariah- Jehovah remembers

Berechiah- Jehovah blesses

Iddo- in the appointed time

Presence of God

Omnipresent- God is everywhere all at once.

Manifest presence- His presence is made clear (I am awakened to it).

Presence of God in History

Adam and Eve- Paradise

Abraham- Covenant

Moses- Wilderness

Joshua- Promised Land (Blessing, Idolatry, Bondage...)

Jesus

Holy Spirit

Paradise restored

B. Return to Me (1:2-3)

²The Lord was very angry with your fathers. ³Therefore say to them, 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.

C. Learn from History (1:4-6)

⁴Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.’ But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. ⁵Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, ‘As the Lord of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.’”

Big Idea: His Presence is Enough

“Return to Me” (v. 3)

1. Confession
2. Scripture
3. Fellowship

Expectations

1. Consolation and Desolation
2. Belief vs. Therapeutic

Glenna Marshall- The Promise of His Presence

“Pain had changed me. It made me jittery, fearful. It made me question myself. It woke me nightly to remind me of its faithfulness. It would never leave me or forsake me. While I pace the floor, I wondered if God loved

me. While I alternated between heat and ice, I wondered if He saw me. When I threw the empty bottle of Tylenol in the trash, I wondered if He noticed. When my hair began to fall out and my skin erupted in scaly rashes, I questioned His goodness. When the circles beneath my eyes hollowed out, when I dropped twenty pounds, when my head was so foggy, ... I asked what the Lord was doing to me. Night after night, the presence of pain edged out my belief in the presence of God. I couldn't understand why He would allow it. Was He punishing me? Teaching me? Treating me like an unloved stepchild? Was He killing some sin in me? Or was He just killing me? We pray for deliverance when suffering steals our days and nights, and we should pray to that end. But we must do so with the knowledge that we need the Deliverer more than we need the deliverance." ... "We need the Healer more than we need the healing!"

Expectations

1. Consolation and Desolation
2. Belief vs. Therapeutic
3. Channeling Desires

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