

THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
A WARNING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE
ZECHARIAH 1:4-6

Introduction

The **LORD**, through the **PROPHET ZECHARIAH**, gave encouragement to **HIS** people in two different ways.

WE SAW THE ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN THROUGH THREE NAMES.
(Zechariah 1:1)

- *Zechariah: The Lord Remembers (Luke 1:54-55).*
- *Berechiah: The Lord Will Bless (Acts 3:25-26).*
- *Iddo: Born At An Appointed Time (Galatians 4:4-5)*

WE SAW THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF A PROMISE FROM GOD!
(Zechariah 1:2-3)

Last week we saw how *THE GREATEST NEED FOR GOD'S PEOPLE WAS FOR REVIVAL!*—Which includes: *A Return To God's Ways, God's Worship, God's Will, and God's Word!*

Tonight, I want us to see **A WARNING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE!**
(*Zechariah 1:4-6*)

- I. THE WARNING NOT TO REPEAT HISTORY! (Vs 4)**
“Those who disregard the past are bound to repeat it.”
(George Santayana)

“The worst thing about history is that every time it repeats itself the price goes up.” (Pillar in Coronet)

In vs 2, the **LORD** had these words for **ZECHARIAH** and the people of **JUDAH**,
“The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.”

It had been the reason that **JERUSALEM** and **JUDAH** had been destroyed and that they had been carried away into **CAPTIVITY** by the **BABYLONIANS** (or **CHALDEANS**)!

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In *verse 4*, the **LORD** reminded **HIS PEOPLE** of past occasions when their fathers had been **DISOBEDIENT TO HIM, HAD NOT LISTENED TO HIM** and **HAD COMMITTED SPIRITUAL ADULTERY!**

Jeremiah 3:6-14; 4:1, 14; 5:1-4, 7-9, 22-25; 6:10, 16-19; 7: 23-28

The people of **JUDAH** thought they could just cast aside the **WORDS OF THE PROPHETS**. The problem was they did not believe in the **AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF THE LORD!**

When a **TRUE PROPHET** would come to them **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD** they rejected the **WORDS** he spoke even though he came speaking, *“Thus saith the LORD God!”*

Now, they had the benefit of knowing what the result was for their fathers casting aside the **WORDS OF THE PROPHETS—Defeat and Disaster!**

The **LORD'S PEOPLE** needed to **NOT ONLY** move from their **SPIRITUAL APATHY** and **RETURN TO HIM** wholeheartedly, but they needed to **MOVE BEYOND** their **DESPAIR** over the pressures from their enemies and **MOVE BEYOND** their **DISCOURAGEMENT** about the smaller scale of the new **TEMPLE**.

The **DESPAIR** and **DISCOURAGEMENT** could be **AND** would be dealt with if they **FIRST RETURNED TO THE LORD** wholeheartedly! As they **RETURNED**, the **LORD** would return to them and help them with their **PROBLEMS!**

Next, we see that **GOD** doesn't speak about the terrible punishments that came upon **HIS PEOPLE**, but about their **MORTALITY:**

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II. WE SEE TWO SOBERING QUESTIONS!

A. *Your fathers, where are they?" (Vs 5)*

What kind of **LEGACY** did they leave behind? What had their **UNBELIEF** and **REBELLION** brought them in the end? They were displaced out of their land and died in **CAPTIVITY** because of their **SINS**!

One of the worst things that can happen in a person's life is for them to **SUFFER LOSS** and then **DIE** as a result of **WICKED REBELLION** against the **LORD**!

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History is full of them! Look at the **REBELS** of the past! (*PHARAOH, AHAB & JEZEBEL, HEROD THE GREAT*) Where are the great **MOCKERS, TYRANTS** and **ATHEISTS** of world history who have **EXALTED THEMSELVES** while **RAGING AGAINST THE LORD AND HIS ANOINTED** in the past? What did it **ACCOMPLISH** for them?

They **DIED** and **ENTERED ETERNITY** in their **UNBELIEF** and **WICKED REBELLION** against **GOD**, but **GOD and HIS WORD CONTINUE! GOD WILL ULTIMATELY JUDGE THEM and HE WILL ABIDE FOR ALL ETERNITY** as they are cast into the **LAKE OF FIRE**!

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What counts is what remains at the end of our lives!

Let me ask you...what kind of **LEGACY** did your forefathers leave you?

1. If it was a **LEGACY** of **LOVE FOR THE LORD** and **HIS WORD**, well you ought to **PRAISE THE LORD** for that and continue the **LEGACY**! Make it a lasting **LEGACY**! Amen!

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2. If it was a **LEGACY** of **DISDAIN** for the **LORD** and **HIS WORD** or even if was a **LEGACY** of **APATHY** for the things of the **LORD**, **YOU NEED TO LEARN FROM THE PAST AND MOVE BEYOND WHAT YOUR FATHERS DID!**

If your parents and/or grandparents dropped the ball, **DON'T REPEAT HISTORY!!!** Look at where their lives got them and **LEARN FROM IT!**

Oh, How we need to establish a **GODLY LEGACY!** And we need to **PRAY** to the **LORD** that it will be a **LASTING LEGACY** to our children and grandchildren!

We can't choose how our children and grandchildren will live their lives! I wish we could! But we can't!

But listen, the **LEGACY** that we leave ought to be such that if our children and grandchildren choose to follow the same path we took, their lives will go well!

- B. *"...and the prophets, do they live for ever?" (Vs 5)*
With these words, the **LORD** was surely saying that **HIS SERVANTS** were also buried, but **HIS WORK CONTINUES!**

The **PROPHETS PROCLAIMED THE TRUTH** and **DIED IN SERVICE**; yet the **TRUTH REMAINS!** Amen!

This preacher isn't going to live on this earth forever! But when I'm dead and gone the **TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD WILL REMAIN! THE WORD OF GOD IS A LASTING LEGACY!**

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III. WE SEE THE REALITY AND REALIZATION OF GOD'S
WORD! (*Vs 6*)

We see that **SOME DID NOT BELIEVE!**

They **died and perished in their unbelief** leaving a trail that speaks
of **the fruit that rebellion brings—chastisement and judgment!**

But **OTHERS BELIEVED!**

They **died too but remain in eternity both in their person and in
the work they accomplished through the LORD!**

NOTHING that is **done in obedience to the LORD** is ever wasted!
(Let me repeat that!)

Sometimes we may **hesitate to do good because we don't see any
results!** We may feel as if we are spinning our spiritual wheels in the
worldly mud of this world! We feel like we are bogged down not
getting anywhere! But that's if we look at things from a worldly
perspective!

But if we **maintain a Heavenly perspective**, we will understand that
we **don't always see the good that results from our efforts!** We
can *plant* and *water*, but we may never see the *increase in our
lifetime!*

That's because **we can't see the hearts of men!** There are things
going on in folks hearts and lives that **we can affect in a positive
way if we stay faithful and let God use us! But not if we quit!**

Listen, we can **AFFECT** folks either **POSITIVELY OR
NEGATIVELY!** Which is it going to be?

Do we truly believe that Christ has won the ultimate victory?
*1 Corinthians 15:57—"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

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Do we really, truly believe that? Well then, let's let it **AFFECT
THE WAY THAT WE LIVE RIGHT NOW!**

Let's not let our **DISCOURAGEMENT** over a **PERCEIVED
LACK OF RESULTS** or even **DISCOURAGEMENT** over our
PERCEIVED INADEQUACIES keep us from **DOING** and
BEING what the **LORD** has called us to **DO** and **BE!**

*1 Corinthians 15:10—"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and
his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I
laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of
God which was with me."*

LET'S OBEY GOD RIGHT NOW realizing that **WHAT WE DO
IN OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD** will have **ETERNAL
RESULTS! IT BOTH CAN AND WILL AFFECT OUR LIVES
AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS FOR ALL ETERNITY!**

These **JEWS** who returned to **JERUSALEM** from the
BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY needed to recognize this and needed
to **TURN WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THE LORD!**

In the same way, **WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THIS AND TURN
WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO OUR LORD!**

Conclusion

We too will all experience death (or the rapture), but **our trust in God, our
devotion to Christ, and our service to Him will remain in eternity!**

PAUL said it this way in *1 Corinthians 15:58—"Therefore, my beloved
brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the
Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*