

“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”

ZECHARIAH: A CALL TO REPENTANCE

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THE MINOR PROPHETS WERE MESSENGERS OF GOD

“They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it.” Bill T. Arnold

THE ESSENCE OF THEIR MESSAGE

- A call to **REPENTANCE** = move **AWAY** from sin
- A promise of **SALVATION** = made **RIGHT** with God

THE PROPHETS CALLED THE **PEOPLE OF GOD**
TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE **WORD OF GOD**

THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

- Encouraged the people to rebuild the temple = 520 BC
- Spoke about God’s coming kingdom
- Longest book of the Minor Prophets
- Most frequently quoted in NT = 71 Times

ZECHARIAH 1:1-6, NLT = A CALL TO REPENTANCE

¹In November of the second year of King Darius’s reign, the Lord gave this message to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah and grandson of Iddo:

²“I, the Lord, was very angry with your ancestors. ³Therefore, say to the people, ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.’ ⁴Don’t be like your ancestors who would not listen or pay attention when the earlier prophets said to them, ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Turn from your evil ways, and stop all your evil practices.’

⁵“Where are your ancestors now? They and the prophets are long dead. ⁶But everything I said through my servants the prophets happened to your ancestors, just as I said. As a result, they repented and said, ‘We have received what we deserved from the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. He has done what he said he would do.’”

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

ZECHARIAH’S SUMMONS TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1. Zechariah _____ God’s people to
_____ their ancestor’s past mistakes

“I, the Lord, was very angry with your ancestors...” (v. 1)

“Where are your ancestors now? They and the prophets are long dead.” (v. 5)

- a. Their evil _____ = direction, mind-set, path or tendency
- b. Their evil _____ = actual practices or activities

2. Zechariah _____ God’s people to be
_____ to the lessons of history

“Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. Don’t be like your ancestors who would not listen or pay attention when the earlier prophets said to them... Turn from your evil ways, and stop all your evil practices.” (v. 3-4)

[Jesus] *“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”* Matthew 4:7

a. We turn _____ sin = make a lifestyle “U-Turn”

“Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.” Isaiah 55:6-7

b. We turn _____ God = receive His grace

“If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

“It is always time to repent of our sins if we wish to experience the power of the gospel and the joy of walking with our Lord.”
Walter Kaiser