

Reflection and Discussion

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| Sermon Series | Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets |
| Sermon Title | Return to the Lord |
| Bible Texts | Zechariah 1-8 |
| Date | July 16, 2023 |

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: When we are facing a large project, why are the first small steps so important?
- Question 2: Why does knowing history help us understand today's problems? Why is it dangerous to "filter" history to minimize our past failures?

Zechariah prophesied to the community of Israel who returned to Jerusalem from their captivity. Earlier prophets had declared God's coming judgment for their sins, but Zechariah's mission was to encourage those who returned to "get it right" this time.

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

Do not repeat the sins of your ancestors! (Zechariah 1:1-6)

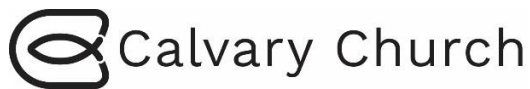
- Question 3: What did God mean when he said, "return to me and I will return to you"?
- Question 4: Zechariah reminded the remnant of their ancestors' past failures. Why did he compare their longevity with the eternal nature of God's words and decrees?
- Question 5: How did Judah express their repentance?
- Question 6: What were the sins of their ancestors that angered God so much? (7:7-14)
- Question 7: How was the restored community expected to live now? (8:16-17)

God instructs and encourages his people through visions.

- Question 8: How would Zechariah's first vision be encouraging for them? (1:16-17)
- Question 9: What were God's promises in that vision? Why do you think those two promises were tied together?

Rebuilding the temple (Zechariah 4)

- Question 10: How will the temple be rebuilt? (4:1-10)
- Question 11: Who was tasked with completing the temple?
- Question 12: Whose strength and power would actually complete it? Why was it important for the Jews—and for us—to know this?
- Question 13: What were God's commands to people as they build the temple? (8:9-17)



Restoring the city (Zechariah 2; 5, 8:1-8)

Question 14: What promises for Jerusalem stand out to you in chapter 2?

Question 15: Who will dwell in the restored Jerusalem?

Question 16: What do the visions of chapter 5 teach us about life Jerusalem after its restoration?

Question 17: What will Jerusalem be known as then (8:1-3)?

Joshua, the high priest (Zechariah 3)

Question 18: In this vision, Joshua (whose name means "the LORD saves") is clothed in clean garments. What does this symbolize?

Question 19: Who is the branch (3:8) and the stone (3:9)?

Question 20: In the vision, the angel of the LORD declares, "I will remove the sin of this land in one day." When did (or will) this happen? (3:9)

Question 21: What role will Joshua play in building the temple? (6:11-13)

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 22: Zechariah wrote to encourage the restored Jewish community to live as God's people. Which of his teachings encourage you in your walk with Christ?

Question 23: Which admonitions in Zechariah challenge you?

Question 24: Zechariah 8:19 admonishes us to "love truth and peace." How does this value clash with our current culture?