



## Introducing Zechariah (Zech 1:1-6)

Dec 9

### RECAP: [Zechariah](#)

**CONTEXT:** Zechariah prophesied to returned exiles for whom hopes of a restored and glorious temple, city and nation were only partially realized. As a result they struggled to see any use in pursuing the Covenant. They felt theirs was a “day of small things” (4:10). Zechariah encouraged them that the Lord’s promises would be fulfilled, particularly in the coming Messiah. 54 references from Zechariah are therefore found in 67 places in the NT. Incidentally, Zechariah means “the LORD has remembered.”

**TIMELINE:** Zechariah and Haggai were both contemporaries of Zerubbabel who spoke challenge and hope to the generation of those who had returned from Exile.

Post-Exilic Leaders and Prophets (During the Persians)	
Leader	Prophet
Zerubbabel(Governor)	Haggai Zechariah
Ezra (Scribe)	Malachi
Nehemiah (Governor)	[Book of Esther]

### FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Zerubbabel/Temple)

- Who was Zerubbabel and what was he doing?
- What should we make of the shouts for joy and at the same time the people’s weeping?
- What do Haggai and Zechariah speak into all this?
- Why do God’s people often face opposition when they go about the Lord’s work?
- How did God’s glory come in Christ?

**READ:** Zech 1:1-6

### QUESTIONS:

1. *As the exiles return Zechariah challenges them not to be like their ancestors.*
2. **V. 2- Why had the exile happened? What had caused the Lord’s anger?**
3. **V. 4- After countless prophets what sort of hearts had the past Israelites shown themselves to have? (Would the next generation be any different?).**
4. **V. 4- Though not meant to be a “witch-hunt” question, how have the short comings of past generations of Christians negatively impacted the Church today? How should this cause us to be repentant and sober in our calling? How might the Lord be calling us to renew our commitment to Him during these days?**
5. **Are we willing to become the kind of people who are ready to participate in the plans in God’s Kingdom? How is this openness/yielding a condition for experiencing God in our lives?**
6. **V. 3- What encouraging promise is found here (see James 4:7-10)?**
7. **V. 4- What does it mean to return or turn from sin (i.e. repent)?**
8. *V. 5-6- God’s word in the past overtook their ancestors (i.e. judgement came true). God is just and consistent. Judgement would overtake the remnant if they did not repent for past sins and show open hearts. The remnant repented (v. 6).*
  - In our individualistic age how does this challenge us to see the corporate nature of our faith and not simply the individual nature?
9. *The rest of the book shows how God would return to His people. It also stresses, in part, the people’s readiness as a condition for these mighty acts (8:1-17).*
10. A quote to ponder: “The story we believe we are in determines what we think about ourselves and consequently how we live.” (C.S. Lewis) **How is this true?**

**NEXT WEEK:** Esther (last LG until Jan 6)