

Zechariah 1:1-6 Translation

¹In the eighth month [“new moon”] in the second year of Daryavesh¹ [A Persian title],
the Word of Yahweh occurred towards ZuhkarYah² [Yah has remembered],
son of BerekYah³ [knee (from *barak*, to kneel/bless) of Yah],
son of Iddo [timely] the prophet,
saying:

²“Yahweh was antagonistic towards your fathers: *yes*, antagonism.

³“You shall say to them,

‘Yahweh of Multitudes speaks in this way [thus]:

‘Turn to Me-

an affirmation of Yahweh-

and I will **turn** to you,

says Yahweh of Multitudes.

⁴“ You will not be as your fathers, to whom the **first prophets** called,
saying,

‘Thus said Yahweh of Multitudes,

Please **turn** from your immoral paths and your immoral endeavors,’

And they did not hear, and they did not pay attention to Me-

an affirmation of Yahweh.

⁵ “Your fathers- where *are* they? And **the prophets**- do they live forever?

⁶ “But My words and My enactments which I commanded **My servants the prophets**- have
they not reached your fathers?”

And they **turned**,

and they said,

“Just as Yahweh of Multitudes planned to do to us,

according to our paths

and according to our doings,

thus He has done with us.”

The unspoken message of v 6a- there’s a prophet speaking to you right now.

¹ Darius.

² Zechariah.

³ Berekiah.

And They Turned

Zechariah Series Sermon 1

- I. Yahweh the Communicator, 1:1 (Part of His nature. Communicates within the Trinity.)
 - A. His messengers: men (next section, 1:7 ff., The Angel of Yahweh, angels = messengers)
 1. Zechariah partnered with Haggai (previous book).
 2. Historical background: Ezra: Return from captivity. Opposition to Temple rebuild.
 3. Zechariah and Haggai are 15 yrs. later. Time to build.
 4. Zechariah is a regular priest. Book written before he is a leader of 1 of 24 courses.
 - B. His messenger Zechariah (Yah has remembered)
 1. Yahweh remembered the covenant their fathers broke, 1:2
 2. Zechariah, son of Bere^kiah (blessing of Yah). (Probably died early)
 3. Zechariah, grandson of Iddo (timely). Zechariah, “son of Iddo,” Ezra 5:1.
- II. Yahweh the Covenant Maker and Keeper, 1:2-4
 - A. With their fathers (to whom they are therefore connected), 1:2
 1. Who broke the covenant
 2. Causing God to take the role of enemy
 - B. Offering renewal of covenant now, 1:3
 1. Turn to Me (You’re turned away)
 2. I’ll turn to you (Your sins have estranged Me)
 3. Language of affirmation: of covenant, but mainly of God Himself
 - C. This offer was previously made and refused, 1:4
 1. Made (by the first prophets)
 2. Refused
 3. Putting Zechariah’s audience ‘back in time’, experiencing
 - a. the same moment (relived through different lives)
 - i. We stand where others have stood
 - ii. It’s quite motivating to see ourselves there
 - b. the same choice
 - c. the same dilemma
- III. Yahweh the Reasoner, 1:4-5
 - A. You can see what happened to your fathers (and why)
 - B. You can see what happened to (their) prophets
 - C. That’s because what I spoke through My prophets (My servants, the prophets) landed
- IV. Yahweh the Softener, 1:6
 - A. The people turned, just as God had invited!
 - B. Why do people do that?
 1. More intelligent?
 2. More spiritually sensitive?
 3. No, Ezek 36:26. God replaces a stony heart with a fleshy (real, human) one
 - C. Evidence: The Word reached *them* as well (as it had reached their fathers)
 1. They ‘stood in the same spot’, saw themselves, then made the opposite decision
 2. Negative examples in Scriptures are very effective! -for the open of heart
 - D. They took full responsibility for their deeds, accepting God’s definition of them