Repentance

Studies in the Book of Zechariah
Part 2



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— Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)

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Read Zechariah 1:1–6

As we learned from Ezra 5:1–2, the prophecies of Zechariah would serve to encourage the people to get back to work, rebuilding the house of God.
Why do you think a message about building the house of God starts with a call to repentance?

Verse 3 is a very famous verse. What do you think is a more significant action: us returning to God, or God returning to us?

What does the act of returning to the Lord look like for Old Testament believers?

What does it look like when God returns to them? Not just in Zechariah's day, but throughout the Old Testament.

Consider these passages:

- *Deuteronomy 28:1–14 — Unparalleled blessings of God*
- *2 Chronicles 7:1–3 — The glory fills the temple*
- *2 Chronicles 30:21–23 — Hezekiah's revival (double Passover celebration)*
- *1 Kings 10 — Material blessings and peace in the days of Solomon*

What does it look like for New Testament believers to return to God?

What does it look like when God returns to New Testament believers?

Consider Acts 2:42–47 — Community, generosity, joy, signs and wonders, salvation.
Does meditating on what it looks like for God to return to His people affect how we might respond to a call to repentance? How so?

The Flying Scroll — Zechariah 5:1–4

Read Zechariah 5:1–4

Look at how the ESV words verse 3.
Do these verses indicate a good thing or a bad thing? (Is the removal of sin a bad thing?)

What do you suppose the scroll represents?

Yes, it is certainly listed as a curse. But isn't the Word of God a curse to those who reject it? (Deuteronomy 28:15; Galatians 3:10). And do these other visions of scrolls in Scripture represent the Word? (Ezekiel 2:9–3:3; Revelation 10:9–11; Revelation 5).

The Woman in the Basket — Zechariah 5:5–11

Read Zechariah 5:5–11

This is not a separate vision. He is still in the same vision. "Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, 'Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out.'" Going out from where? What just happened?
According to verse 6, what is being taken out of the land?

According to verses 1–5, what drove it out?

Who is the Word?

Does this remind you of Jesus clearing the temple? (Which He did during the time in which people cleansed their homes of leaven, by the way.)
How does the message of Zechariah 5 relate to repentance?

What happens to the iniquity that is removed from Israel?

What things has God called us to repent of that the culture now worships?

Do you think the culture of the world will increase or decrease in its worship of sin?

According to verse 11, what do they build for iniquity?

What is the purpose of the book of Zechariah?

Verse 11 shows us a contrast of houses. A contrast of worship. And it will only become more clear as we get closer to the Lord's return. But there is no time to wait. It may be too late for us later. We may be too deceived by culture to respond. Now is the time to let the Word judge our hearts.

If Zechariah is about building the house where God can dwell among His people, how does this chapter relate?

What is the significance for us?

True Fasting and True Repentance — Zechariah 7

Read Zechariah 7:1–3

This was a fast related to the destruction of the temple. But now, they are ready to rebuild.

Read verses 4–7

God answers their question with a question. What is the significance of God's question?

Is repentance objective?

Read verses 8–10

What does repentance look like for us?

Way back, when the Israelites had just left Egypt during the Exodus, God gave them important instructions for what to do should they find themselves exiled into a foreign land because of their sin.

Read Leviticus 26:40–42

What would be the result of finishing the temple in Zechariah's day without doing this step?

The Spirit of Grace and Supplication — Zechariah 12:10–13:1

Read Zechariah 12:10–13:1

Zechariah is a book about building the house of God. Jesus builds the house. We partner. The absolute first step is repentance. This is the same for ancient Jews building the second temple; it is the same for us in the new covenant. But let us break this passage down a bit.

Re-read verse 10

What kicks off the repentance?

What is the next step in repentance?

Why are they mourning? Is this relevant to us?

What is the significance of pointing out that this is not a governmental or corporate repentance, but an individual one?

According to 13:1, what is the fruit of this repentance?

Repentance invites Jesus to build the house His way. And when He does, it is a house where He dwells. And where He dwells He also does what He loves to do. What does He love to do?

Is repentance a gift?

How often should we repent?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14

Now is the time to let the Word judge our hearts.