

Return to Me and I will Return to You – Zech. 1:1-7

I. The Lord Offers Forgiveness (1-3)

A. The Lord was Angry with Israel's Fathers (1-2)

1. Many Israelites had returned from 70 year captivity
2. They came expecting God's Kingdom reestablished
3. They were increasingly disappointed by the times
 - a. They had lost interest in building the temple
 - b. They had lost their spiritual fervor
 - c. They had become complacent and indifferent
4. Zechariah was reminding them from where they came

B. The Lord Desires Reconciliation (3)

1. Return to the Lord and he will return to you
 - a. Repentance is required of Israel
 - b. Haggai tells them to return to temple building
 - Blood sacrifice is necessary
 - Turn to Christ
 - b. Turn away from ways and deeds

II. The Lord Brings Judgment (4-6)

A. Israel's Fathers Ignored God's Warnings (4)

1. The prophets of old called Israel to repentance
 - a. Called them to turn from evil ways and deeds
 - b. Called them to turn back to God
2. The Fathers would not heed the prophet's warning
 - a. They would not hear the warning
 - b. They would not pay attention to the warning

B. Israel's Fathers Incurred God's Judgment (5-6)

1. The Fathers were killed or captured by pagans (5)
 - a. Rhetorical question – Where are they?
2. The Prophets neither live forever
3. Yet the words of God spoken by the prophets overtook fathers (6)
 - a. The Jews thought they were invulnerable
 - b. They were God's chosen people
 - c. Therefore they scoffed at the prophets God sent
 - d. They realized too late how wrong they were

III. The Lord accepts Repentance (7)

A. The people heard Zechariah and repented

1. They accepted that God had judged their wickedness
 - a. Their ways and their deeds
2. They turned to Him
 - a. Haggai says they began building the Temple
 - b. God requires turning from sin
 - c. God requires blood sacrifice to be paid.
 - This would happen in the new Temple
 - For us it happened in Christ