

“Repent, And Return to Me” (Zechariah)

August 11, 2024

Zechariah was written to be a comfort to Israel. To let them know God was on their side, and they were to be blessed by God.

Zechariah is a book about comfort. Present comfort for Israel and the time in which the book was written; future comfort for them in the promise of the coming of the Messiah.

The ministry of the Old Testament prophets is coming to an end in the time of Zechariah. Israel is about to enter a 400-year period of prophetic silence; a silence that will be broken by a man named John the Baptist.

This small remnant ran into significant resistance and they quickly lost their enthusiasm. They became fearful and discouraged, and they stopped the building.

Zechariah’s message to the people of Israel was, “Keep going; God has not forgotten you. I know it is tough, and the opposition is strong. Keep going. Let God be your comfort.

God had restored the people to the land. The period of discipline has ended. But the rules are the same. The place of blessing is always the same; it is when a person turns away from sin.

God is not going to just shower blessings on the people indiscriminately and unconditionally regardless of their spiritual condition.

The place of blessing, the place of mercy and grace always starts at the place of repentance. Always.

God has a place of blessing; a place of refreshing. God has a place of comfort. God has a place of grace and mercy and hope and peace that is available to those who turn to God.

The message of Zechariah to the people is; although God has restored you to the land, never forget that God is angry about sin.

1 John 4:16 says, “God is love.” That is true enough. But do not forget that Hebrews 12:29 says that God is a consuming fire. He is both.

The person who believes that sin goes unpunished is cherry-picking their way through the Bible. Every act of sin demands a holy reaction.

God’s wrath is always averted by repentance and confession.

God does not say, “Turn to my law.” He does not say, “Just do your best to be a good person.” He does not say, “Make sure you are closely connected to some religious institution.” He says, “Return to Me.” It is personal. It is a plea from our holy, righteous, and loving Heavenly Father.

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